



Lewis Hamilton

Sir Lewis Carl Davidson Hamilton MBE HonFREng (born 7 January 1985) is a British racing driver competing in Formula One, driving for Mercedes. He has won a joint-record seven Formula One World Drivers' Championship titles (tied with Michael Schumacher), and holds the records for most wins (105), pole positions (104), and podium finishes (201), among others.

Born and raised in Stevenage, Hertfordshire, Hamilton joined the McLaren Young Driver Programme in 1998. This led to a Formula One drive with McLaren from 2007 to 2012, making him the first black driver to race in the series. In his debut season, Hamilton set numerous records as he finished runner-up to Kimi Räikkönen by one point. The following season, he won his maiden title in dramatic fashion—making a crucial overtake on the last lap of the last race of the season—to become the then-youngest ever Formula One World Champion. After six years with McLaren, Hamilton signed with Mercedes in 2013.

Changes to the regulations for 2014 mandating the use of turbo-hybrid engines saw the start of a highly successful period for Hamilton, during which he won six further drivers' titles. Consecutive titles came in 2014 and 2015 during an intense rivalry with teammate Nico Rosberg. Following Rosberg's retirement in 2016, Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel became Hamilton's closest rival in two championship battles, in which he twice overturned mid-season point deficits to claim consecutive titles again in 2017 and 2018. His third and fourth consecutive titles followed in 2019 and 2020 to equal Schumacher's record of seven drivers' titles. Hamilton surpassed 100 race wins and pole positions in 2021. He will join Ferrari for the 2025 season.

Hamilton has been credited with furthering Formula One's global following by appealing to a broader audience outside the sport, in part due to his high-profile lifestyle, environmental and social activism, and exploits in music and fashion. He has also become a prominent advocate in support of activism to combat racism and push for increased diversity in motorsport. Hamilton was listed in the 2020 issue of *Time* as one of the 100 most influential people globally, and was knighted in the 2021 New Year Honours.

Early life and education



Hamilton celebrating with his father and then-manager Anthony Hamilton after the 2008 Brazilian Grand Prix^[6]

Lewis Carl Davidson Hamilton was born on 7 January 1985 in Stevenage, Hertfordshire.^[2] His father, Anthony Hamilton, is of Grenadian descent, while his mother, Carmen Larbalestier, is British, from Birmingham.^[7] making him mixed-race.^{[8][9]} Hamilton's parents separated when he was two, after which he lived with his mother and older half-sisters, Samantha and Nicola, until he was twelve.^[10] Hamilton then lived with his father, stepmother Linda, and his half-brother Nicolas, who is also a professional racing driver.^{[11][12]} Hamilton was raised a Catholic.^[13]

Hamilton's father bought him a radio-controlled car when he was five.^[14] Hamilton finished second in the national BRCA championship the following year against adult competition.^[15] Being the only black child racing at his club, Hamilton was subjected to racist abuse.^{[14][16]} Hamilton's father bought him a go-kart for Christmas when he was six and promised to support his racing career as long as he worked hard at school.^[17] To support his son, Hamilton's father took redundancy from his position as an IT manager and became a contractor, sometimes working up to four jobs at a time including employment as a double glazing salesman, dishwasher, and putting up signs for estate agents.^[18] while still attending his son's races.^[19] Hamilton's father later set up his own IT company.^[20] He continued to be Hamilton's manager until early 2010.^{[21][22]}

Hamilton was educated at The John Henry Newman School, a voluntary aided Catholic secondary school in Stevenage.^[23] Hamilton has said that at the age of five he took up karate to defend himself as a result of bullying at school.^[24] He was also excluded from school for a period when he was mistakenly identified as having attacked a fellow student who was treated in hospital for his injuries.^[25] In addition to racing, he played association football for his school team with eventual England international, Ashley Young.^[20] Hamilton, an Arsenal fan, said that if Formula One had not worked for him, he would have been a footballer or a cricketer, having played both for his school teams.^[26] In February 2001, he began studies at Cambridge Arts and Sciences (CATS), a private sixth-form college in Cambridge.^[27]

Junior racing career

Karting

Hamilton began karting in 1993 and quickly began winning races and cadet class championships.^{[28][29]} Two years later, he became the youngest driver to win the British cadet karting championship at the age of ten. That year, Hamilton approached McLaren Formula One team boss Ron Dennis at the Autosport Awards for an autograph and said: "Hi. I'm

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Sir

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Lewis Hamilton. I won the British Championship and one day I want to be racing your cars."^[18] Dennis wrote in Hamilton's autograph book: "Phone me in nine years, we'll sort something out then."^[30]

When Hamilton was 12, [Ladbroke's](#) took a bet, at 40/1 odds, that Hamilton would win a Formula One race before the age of 23; another predicted, at 150/1 odds, that he would win the World Drivers' Championship before he was 25.^[31] In 1998, Dennis called Hamilton following his second Super One series and British championship wins,^[15] to offer Hamilton a role in the McLaren driver development programme.^[8] The contract included an option of a future Formula One seat, which would make Hamilton the youngest driver to secure a contract that later resulted in a Formula One drive.^[28]

Hamilton continued his progress in the [Intercontinental A](#) (1999), Formula A (2000) and Formula Super A (2001) ranks, and became European Champion in 2000 with maximum points. In [Formula A](#) and Formula Super A, racing for TeamMBM.com, his teammate was [Nico Rosberg](#), who would later drive for the [Williams](#) and Mercedes teams in Formula One; they would later team up again for Mercedes from 2013 to 2016. Following his karting successes, the [British Racing Drivers' Club](#) made him a "Rising Star" Member in 2000.^[33] In 2001, [Michael Schumacher](#) made a one-off return to karts and competed against Hamilton along with other future Formula One drivers [Vitantonio Liuzzi](#) and [Nico Rosberg](#). Hamilton ended the final in seventh, four places behind Schumacher. Although the two saw little of each other on the track, Schumacher praised the young Briton.^[34]

Formula Renault and Formula Three

Hamilton began his car racing career in the 2001 British Formula Renault Winter Series, finishing fifth in the standings.^[15] This led to a full 2002 [Formula Renault UK](#) campaign with Manor Motorsport in which he finished fifth overall.^[35] He remained with Manor for another year, winning the championship ahead of [Alex Lloyd](#).^[36] Having clinched the championship, Hamilton missed the last two races of the season to make his debut in the season finale of the British Formula 3 Championship.^[37] In his first race he was forced out with a puncture,^[38] and in the second he crashed out and was taken to hospital after a collision with teammate [Tor Graves](#).^[39]

Asked in 2002 about the prospect of becoming one of the youngest ever Formula One drivers, Hamilton replied that his goal was "not to be the youngest in Formula One" but rather "to be experienced and then show what I can do in Formula One".^[40] He made his debut with Manor in the 2004 [Formula 3 Euro Series](#), ending the year fifth in the championship.^[41] He also won the Bahrain F3 Superprix,^[42] and twice raced in the [Macau F3 Grand Prix](#).^{[43][44]} Williams had come close to signing Hamilton but did not because BMW, their engine supplier at the time, would not fund him.^[45] Hamilton eventually re-signed with McLaren. According to then McLaren executive and future CEO [Martin Whitmarsh](#), who was responsible for guiding Hamilton through the team's young driver programme, he and Anthony Hamilton had a "huge row" at the end of the season, with his father pushing for him to move up to GP2 for 2005, while Whitmarsh felt that he should remain in Formula 3 for a second season, culminating in Whitmarsh tearing up Hamilton's contract; however, Hamilton called Whitmarsh six weeks later and re-signed with the team.^[18]

Hamilton first tested for McLaren in late 2004 at Silverstone.^[46] Hamilton moved to the reigning Euro Series champions ASM for the 2005 season and dominated the championship, winning 15 of the 20 rounds.^[15] He also won the [Marlboro Masters of Formula 3](#) at Zandvoort.^[47] After the season British magazine *Autosport* featured him in their "Top 50 Drivers of 2005" issue, ranking Hamilton 24th.^[15]

GP2

Hamilton moved to ASM's sister GP2 team, [ART Grand Prix](#), for the 2006 season.^[48] Hamilton won the GP2 championship at his first attempt, beating [Nelson Piquet Jr.](#) and [Alexandre Prémat](#).^[49] He secured a dominant win at the [Nürburgring](#), despite a penalty for speeding in the pit lane.^[50] At his home race at Silverstone, Hamilton overtook two rivals at Becketts, a series of high-speed bends where overtaking is rare.^[51] In Istanbul he recovered from a spin that left him in eighteenth place to take second.^[52] Hamilton won the title in unusual circumstances, inheriting the final point he needed after [Giorgio Pantano](#) was stripped of fastest lap in the [Monza](#) feature race.^[53]

Hamilton's success in the GP2 championship coincided with a vacancy at McLaren following the departure of [Juan Pablo Montoya](#) to NASCAR and [Kimi Räikkönen](#) to Ferrari.^{[54][55]} After months of speculation on whether Hamilton, Pedro de la Rosa or Gary Paffett would be paired with defending champion Fernando Alonso for 2007, Hamilton was confirmed as the team's second driver.^[56] He was told of McLaren's decision at the end of September, but the news was not made public for almost two months, for fear that it would be overshadowed by Michael Schumacher's retirement announcement.^[57]

Formula One career

McLaren (2007–2012)

Hamilton's first season in Formula One saw him partner two-time and defending World Champion Fernando Alonso at McLaren, a team that used works [Mercedes](#) engines and was 40% owned by the German manufacturer at the time.^[58] Hamilton is the first and as of 2024 the only black driver to race in the series.^{[59][60][61]} After finishing on the podium in his debut,^[62] Hamilton went on to set several records as he finished runner-up in the 2007 World Drivers' Championship to Kimi Räikkönen by one point,^[63] including those for the [most consecutive podium finishes from debut](#) (9), the [joint most wins in a debut season](#) (4) and the [most points in a debut season](#) (109).^[64] Throughout the season, [Hamilton and Alonso](#) were involved in a number of incidents which resulted in tensions between both drivers and the team, culminating in Alonso and McLaren terminating their contract by mutual consent in November. Following a successful first season at McLaren, Hamilton signed a multi-million-pound contract to stay with the team until 2012.^[65]

Website	<div>lewishamilton.com (http://lewis-hamilton.com)</div>
Previous series	
2006	GP2 Series
2004–05	Formula 3 Euro
2002–03	Series
2003	Formula Renault
2002	UK
2001	British Formula 3
	Formula Renault
	Eurocup
	British Formula Renault
	Championship
Championship titles	
2006	GP2 Series
2005	Formula 3 Euro
2003	Series
	Formula Renault
	UK
Awards	
2022	FIA Action of the
2020	Year
2014, 2018,	Sportsman of the
2020–21	Year
2008	FIA Personality
2007–08, 2014–	of the Year
15, 2017–20	Breakthrough of
2006–07	the Year
2003	International
	Racing Driver
	Award
	AS Rookie of the
	Year
	Autosport British
	Club Driver of
	the Year

He's a quality driver, very strong and only 16. If he keeps this up I'm sure he will reach F1. It's something special to see a kid of his age out on the circuit. He's clearly got the right racing mentality.

—[Michael Schumacher](#), speaking about Hamilton in 2001^[32]



Hamilton and his team celebrate his maiden Formula One World Championship title in 2008.

Hamilton's success continued in 2008 as he amassed five victories and ten podium finishes. Including the impressive British Grand Prix victory, where he won the race by over a minute from second-place Nick Heidfeld, his drive was widely acclaimed as one of Formula One's finest wet-weather drives.^[66] As the season reached its conclusion in Brazil, it became a clear two-way fight for the title between the home favourite Felipe Massa and the young Briton. Hamilton won his first title in dramatic fashion in the last race of the season, the 2008 Brazilian Grand Prix, overtaking Timo Glock for fifth position in the final corners of the last lap to become the then-youngest Formula One World Champion in history and to deny race-winner Massa the title by one point.^{[67][68]} This made Hamilton the first British driver to win the World Championship since Damon Hill in 1996.^[69]



Hamilton took his first Formula One win at the 2007 Canadian Grand Prix in only his sixth Grand Prix.

In his last four years with McLaren, Hamilton continued to score podium finishes and race victories. Driving an inferior car compared to his rivals in Red Bull and Ferrari, Hamilton entered the final round of the 2010 season with a chance of winning the title but ultimately finished fourth as Sebastian Vettel won the race to take his maiden drivers' crown. In 2011, it was the first season he had been out-scored by a teammate, as Jenson Button finished runner-up to champion Sebastian Vettel, during a year in which distractions in his private life and run-ins with FIA officials saw Hamilton finish a lowly fifth in the standings, after which he vowed he would return to form for 2012.^[71] In the 2012 season, Hamilton finished fourth in the standings and achieved four race wins, despite several operational failures and reliability issues.^{[72][73][74]} Before the end of the year, Hamilton announced, to much surprise, that he would be joining Mercedes for the 2013 season, replacing the retiring Michael Schumacher.^[75]

There are people that watch and say that I've never had a bad car. I can assure you I have. 2009's car [at McLaren] was very, very far off and was the worst car that I've had.

— Hamilton, in comparing his seasons at McLaren in 2009 and Mercedes in 2022.^[70]

Mercedes (2013–2024)

2013–2016: Teammates with Rosberg

Upon signing with Mercedes in 2013, Hamilton was reunited with his childhood karting teammate, Nico Rosberg. The move was met with surprise by pundits and the public, with some describing the move to Mercedes, a team with no recent history of success, as a gamble.^{[76][77]} In his first season with the Brackley-based team, Hamilton secured a sole race victory, winning the Hungarian Grand Prix, where he converted an unexpected pole position into a winning margin of over 11 seconds ahead of second-place finisher Kimi Räikkönen.^[78] With a number of other podium finishes and pole positions, Hamilton finished fourth in the standings once again, the third time in five years.^[75]



Hamilton and Rosberg endured a tense rivalry in their time as teammates.

Changes to engine regulations for the 2014 season, which mandated the use of turbo-hybrid engines, contributed to the start of a highly successful era for Hamilton. That year saw Mercedes win 16 of the 19 races that season, 11 of those secured by Hamilton as he prevailed in a season-long duel for the title against teammate Rosberg. Clinching his second drivers' title, and eclipsing the victory tally of all British drivers before him, Hamilton declared over team-radio after the final race in Abu Dhabi: "This is the greatest day of my life."^[75] New Formula One driver number regulations brought in for 2014 allowed drivers to pick a unique car number to use for their entire career, and so Hamilton elected to drive under his old karting No. 44 for the remainder of his career.^[79]

Before the start of the 2015 season, Hamilton announced he would not be exercising his option of switching his car number to 1, as was his prerogative as reigning World Champion, and would instead continue to race with his career No. 44. It was the first season since 1994, when Alain Prost retired from the sport following his fourth and final World Drivers' Championship title in 1993, that the field did not contain a car bearing the No. 1.^[80] Through the 2015 season, he was in the top 10 of career wins and pole positions by percentage, average starting grid position, laps led per Grand Prix, fastest laps by percentage, and podium finishes by percentage.^[81] Hamilton dominated the season, winning ten races finishing on the podium a record seventeen times as he matched his hero Ayrton Senna's three World Championships titles, and achieved his first back-to-back championship.^[82] The rivalry between him and Rosberg intensified, climaxing in a heated battle at the United States Grand Prix where Hamilton won in an action-packed, wheel-to-wheel battle with his teammate to clinch the title with three races to spare.^[75] That year, Hamilton extended his contract with Mercedes for three additional years in a deal reportedly worth more than £100 million, making him one of the best-paid drivers in Formula One,^{[83][84]} as well as allowing Hamilton to retain his own image rights, which is considered unusual in the sport, and keep his championship-winning cars and trophies.^[83]

Despite recording more pole positions and race wins than any other driver in 2016, Hamilton lost the drivers' title by five points to his teammate Rosberg. The team's policy of letting the pair fight freely led to several acrimonious exchanges both on and off the track,^[85] culminating in Hamilton defying team orders at the final Abu Dhabi Grand Prix and deliberately slowing to back Rosberg into the chasing pack at the end of the race in an unsuccessful bid to encourage other drivers to overtake his teammate, which would have allowed him to win the title.^[86] Ultimately, a succession of poor starts from Hamilton early in the season and a crucial engine blowout at the Malaysian Grand Prix meant Rosberg took the title,^[85] which he successfully secured before announcing his shock retirement from the sport immediately after beating his rival.^{[75][87]}



Hamilton's engine failure in Malaysia in 2016 was a key moment in the Drivers' Championship fight.

2017–2020: Four titles in a row

Following Rosberg's retirement, Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel became Hamilton's closest rival as the pair exchanged the championship lead throughout 2017 in a tense title fight. Hamilton registered 11 pole positions that season as he took the record for the all-time most pole positions, and his consistency (finishing every race in the points), as well as a lack of a serious challenge from his new teammate Valtteri Bottas, saw him record nine race victories and secure his fourth World Drivers' title as he overturned a points deficit to Vettel in the first half of the season, ultimately wrapping the title up in Mexico with two races to spare.^[75]



The 2018 season was the first time in the sport that two four-time World Champions (Hamilton and Vettel) competed for a fifth title.

The 2018 season was the first time that two four-time World Champions, Hamilton and Vettel, would be competing for a fifth title and was billed as the "Fight for Five" by journalists and fans.^{[88][89][90]} As with the 2017 season, Ferrari and Vettel appeared to have the upper hand for much of the season, topping the standings until the half-way point; however, Vettel's season unravelled with a number of driver and mechanical errors, while Hamilton's run of six wins in seven in the latter half of the season saw Hamilton clinch the title at the Mexican Grand Prix for a second year running as he set a new record for the most points scored in a season (408).^{[75][87]} During the season, Hamilton signed a two-year contract with Mercedes, reported to be worth up to £40 million per year, making him the best-paid Formula One driver in history.^[91]

Having signed a contract with Mercedes that lasted until 2020, it was confirmed Hamilton would defend his title in 2019.^[92] Hamilton led the drivers' standings for the majority of the season, fending off title challenges from team-mate Bottas, the Honda-powered Red Bull of Max Verstappen and Ferrari's recently promoted Charles Leclerc, to clinch his sixth drivers' crown at the United States Grand Prix with two races remaining.^{[93][94]} After scoring his sixth career grand slam at the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, the final race of the season, Hamilton ended the season with 11 wins (matching his

previous best in 2014 and 2018) and 17 podiums (matching the all-time record for a fourth time) as well as achieving 5 pole positions.^[95] His total of 413 points for the season was a new all-time record, seeing the Briton finish 87 points clear of second-placed Bottas.^[96]

Hamilton won his seventh drivers' title in 2020, equalling the record set by Schumacher, in a season heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.^{[97][98]} Over the shortened seventeen-race season, Hamilton took 11 wins (equalling his previous personal best, but in fewer races) including one in Portugal to break Schumacher's record of 91 wins.^[99] He also took 14 podiums and 10 pole positions. Hamilton missed the 2020 Sakhir Grand Prix after contracting COVID-19,^[100] his first race absence since his debut in 2007.^[101] In a race drawing parallels with Senna's win at the 1993 European Grand Prix,^[102] Hamilton clinched the title at the 2020 Turkish Grand Prix with three rounds to spare and ended the season 124 points clear of his team-mate, Bottas, who finished second in the standings.^[103] Amid Formula One's *We Race as One* campaign and growing global support for the Black Lives Matter movement, Hamilton took the knee ahead of every race he entered and wore t-shirts bearing the Black Lives Matter slogan.^[104] Hamilton and Bottas's W11 cars also sported a black livery as a statement of Mercedes's commitment to diversity.^[105]

2021 season: Title battle vs. Verstappen

Early on in the 2021 season, Hamilton and Red Bull's Verstappen emerged as title favourites.^[106] The pair frequently exchanged the championship lead throughout the season—often sparring (and occasionally coming together) on track—and entered the season finale's Abu Dhabi Grand Prix level on points. In Abu Dhabi, Verstappen overtook Hamilton on the final lap of the race, denying Hamilton his eighth title. During the season, Hamilton became the first driver to surpass 100 pole positions and 100 race wins, respectively.^{[107][108]}

The season finale was marred by controversy over race director Michael Masi's decision to instruct only the lapped cars separating Verstappen and Hamilton to un-lap themselves under the safety car, which eliminated any gap between the pair and allowed the Dutchman, running newly fitted soft tyres, to enter the final lap immediately behind Hamilton on his worn hard tyres.^{[109][110]} Four days after the race, the FIA announced that it would conduct an internal investigation into the incident.^[111] Masi was subsequently removed from his role as race director,^[112] with the FIA World Motor Sport Council report finding that "human error" resulted in the failure to follow Formula One Sporting Regulations concerning the withdrawal of the safety car, but also that the final standings are "valid, final and cannot now be changed".^[113] Notwithstanding the controversy in Abu Dhabi, BBC Sport's Andrew Benson described the season as "one of the most intense, hard-fought battles in sporting history", with Hamilton and Verstappen having "been head and shoulders—and a lot more—clear of every other driver on the grid".^[109]



Hamilton (left) and Verstappen engaged in several on-track battles throughout the 2021 season. Pictured is the 2021 United States Grand Prix.

2022–2024: Mercedes struggles and departure



Hamilton's intense battle with Ferrari's Charles Leclerc for the final spot on the podium, at the 2022 British Grand Prix.

Hamilton was partnered by George Russell for the 2022 season, in place of the departing Bottas.^[114] The season saw significant changes in technical regulations which sought to utilise ground effect to generate downforce. During pre-season testing in Bahrain, Mercedes introduced their "zero sidepod" car design, which was radically different to that of its competitors. Although the Mercedes W13's innovative design elements provided promising results in the simulator, it suffered with extreme porpoising early in the season. To prevent this, the team was forced run their cars with higher ride heights compared to others, leading to significant loss of downforce, which limited the car's potential.^[115] At the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix, Hamilton deemed the car was "undrivable", after barely managing to finish in the points.^[116] During the first half of the season, Hamilton was marginally low on points compared to Russell, despite his integral involvement in W13's development. He diligently experimented with various car setups during race weekends until the major car upgrades at the British Grand Prix. Once his focus and contribution shifted from development to the usual performance, he was able achieve better results. Surpassing Russell's tally in the latter half of the season with more podium finishes and championship points.^[117]

Despite a difficult season Hamilton was able to set several driver records, including most consecutive seasons with at least one podium finish, most consecutive seasons with at least one lap led, most races with a single constructor, most Q3 appearances, most top 10 finishes and chequered flags reached at the Monaco Grand Prix, most podium finishes at a single circuit, most points scored at the Monza Circuit and most podium finishes at the United States Grand Prix.^[118] By the end of the season, Hamilton had scored nine podium finishes but failed to win a race nor a pole position in a season for the first time in his Formula One career. He finished sixth in the Drivers' Championship, 35 points behind Russell, who finished fourth. But Hamilton managed to outqualify and finish on podium in more occasions compared to Russell over the course of the season.^{[119][120]}

Mercedes carried on their abnormal car concept into the 2023 season with the Mercedes W14, again starting with concerns over their competitiveness, with Hamilton saying they were "not where they wanted to be" after pre-season testing.^[121] He finished fifth in the opening race in Bahrain, over 50 seconds behind the race winner, Verstappen.^[122] His first of the season and record extending podium finish was followed at the chaotic Australian Grand Prix.^[123] Five more podium finishes were followed during the season, including a hard-fought podium at his home race in Silverstone, starting from seventh on the grid.^[124] At the Hungarian Grand Prix, Hamilton qualified 0.003 seconds ahead of Verstappen to take his 104th pole position and his first since 2021. It was his record ninth pole position at the Hungaroring, surpassing Senna and Schumacher to the record for most pole positions at a single circuit.^[125]

In the build-up to the [Italian Grand Prix](#), Hamilton signed a two-year contract extension worth over £100 million to remain with Mercedes through the 2025 season. Russell also signed a two-year extension, retaining Mercedes' driver pair.^{[126][127]} Although Hamilton finished second at the [United States Grand Prix](#), he was stripped of the podium due to a post-race disqualification, caused by a technical infringement. It was recognized as a crucial turnaround in his fight for the second position in the Driver's Championship with Red Bull's [Sergio Pérez](#).^[128] Outdriving the capabilities of the W14 throughout the season, Hamilton finished at an impressive third in the Driver's Championship, while teammate Russell finished eighth to secure second position for Mercedes in the Constructor's Championship, three points ahead of Ferrari. Hamilton was also named the second best driver on the grid by the drivers during the 2023 season, behind the championship winner Verstappen.^[129]

Prior to the start of the [2024 season](#), Hamilton triggered an exit-clause in his Mercedes contract, allowing him to leave the team at the conclusion of the 2024 season, a year before his contract was due to expire. Hamilton claimed the decision was one of the hardest to make, but it was made due to the need of a new challenge and a different work environment.^[130] Mercedes team principal, [Toto Wolff](#) insisted that the team failing to provide Hamilton with a long-term contract might have been an important element in his decision to leave the team.^[131] Hamilton's final car for the team, the [Mercedes W15](#) was unveiled in February 2024. It was claimed to have built on a completely different design approach compared to its predecessors.^[132]

After qualifying in second place behind his teammate Russell, Hamilton, taking advantage of the undercut to pass [Lando Norris](#), won the [2024 British Grand Prix](#) at Silverstone. This was his first victory since the 2021 Saudi Arabian Grand Prix, and it broke [Michael Schumacher](#)'s record for most wins at a single track.^{[133][134]} At the following [Hungarian Grand Prix](#), Hamilton finished in third place to take his 200th career podium, despite contact with Verstappen on lap 63, for which both drivers were found partially at fault.^[135] At the [Belgian Grand Prix](#), Hamilton qualified fourth before finishing behind his teammate Russell. However, Russell was disqualified after the race for an underweight car, handing Hamilton the victory.^[136]

Ferrari (2025)

Following numerous rumours and speculation over the course of the 2023 season, it was announced prior to the start of the 2024 Formula One season that Ferrari had reached an agreement for Hamilton to join the team in [2025](#) on a multi-year contract, replacing the outgoing [Carlos Sainz Jr.](#)^{[137][138]} *The Athletic* described the move as "one of the biggest driver transfer shocks the sport has known", also recalling his similar shock move from McLaren to Mercedes back in 2013.^[137] Hamilton claimed driving for Ferrari was one of his childhood dreams. This transition marks the first time in his Formula One career that Hamilton will not be driving for a Mercedes-powered team,^[139] and will end Hamilton's record-breaking streak of most consecutive seasons driving for a single constructor.^[140]

Driver profile

Driving style

Hamilton is regarded as one of the most complete drivers on the grid,^[141] excelling across a wide range of areas.^[142] He has been described as having an aggressive driving style,^[143] with a natural aptitude for identifying the limits of the car; Mark Hughes, writing for the official Formula One website, described how Hamilton is "super-hard on the brakes ... but has a fantastic ability to match how quickly the downforce is bleeding off with his modulation of the pressure so that there's no wasted grip but no locked wheels either."^{[144][145]} Paddy Lowe, previously the engineering director for McLaren, described how Hamilton is comfortable with levels of rear instability that most other drivers would find intolerable.^[144]

Hamilton has also been praised for his ability to adapt to variances in the car set-up and changing track conditions; throughout his career, he has typically used less fuel than his teammates as a result of his ability to carry momentum through corners despite instability in the car.^[146] [Pedro de la Rosa](#), a former test driver for McLaren who worked with Hamilton and Alonso, rated the pair as the best he had seen first hand, stating that they shared a strength in terms of "how much speed they can run into the apex [of a corner] and still have a decent exit speed", highlighting in particular their ability to maintain this speed when their rear tyres have lost grip during a longer stint.^[18]

Hamilton has been praised for his consistency, especially in his time at Mercedes. From 2017 to 2018, he finished 33 consecutive races in point-scoring positions, a run only brought to an end as a result of mechanical issues as opposed to driver error.^{[147][148]} [Ross Brawn](#) wrote that "over the course of [2018], Hamilton hardly put a foot wrong, winning not only the races he should have, but also some where the opposition was stronger, and that is the true mark of a champion."^[149] Ahead of the [2021 season](#), [Martin Brundle](#), commentating for Sky Sports, said "I think what has stood out about Lewis over the years is how few mistakes he makes, how complete he is and clean ... he just never makes a mistake [in] wheel-to-wheel combat [or] in qualifying ... He just doesn't fade, mentally or physically."^[150]



Hamilton won by over a minute from second-placed [Nick Heidfeld](#) at the [2008 British Grand Prix](#).



Hamilton won the [2014 Japanese Grand Prix](#) in torrential rain, and compared the conditions to his victory at the [2008 British Grand Prix](#).

Hamilton is regarded as one of the best wet-weather drivers in the sport, with some of his best performances occurring in those conditions. In the [2008 British Grand Prix](#), Hamilton bested second-place [Nick Heidfeld](#) by over a minute, the largest margin of victory recorded since the [1995 Australian Grand Prix](#).^{[151][152]} During the turbo-hybrid era, Hamilton remained unbeaten in every race affected by wet weather from the [2014 Japanese Grand Prix](#) up to the [2019 German Grand Prix](#), where his almost five-year streak was broken by [Max Verstappen](#).^[153] His wet weather drive at the 2020 Turkish Grand Prix where he clinched his seventh world title was widely acclaimed, with [Joe Saward](#) describing it as "one of his greatest performances".^[102] Despite only qualifying sixth for the race after Mercedes struggled with tyre temperatures and a track that lacked grip after being recently resurfaced, during the race he gambled on a one-stop strategy in mixed conditions whilst his rivals chose to change their tyres for a second time, enabling him to take the lead and win by over 30 seconds. His performance was contrasted with that of his team-mate Bottas, who spun four times and finished a lap down in 14th place.^{[154][155][156]} Hamilton cited the race as his "stand-out" performance of the season.^[157]

[Ayrton Senna](#) was a major influence on Hamilton's driving style, recalling: "I think it's partly because I watched [him] when I was young and I thought 'this is how I want to drive when I get the opportunity' and I went out there and tried it on the kart track. My whole approach to racing has developed from there."^[158] He has been compared to Senna in raw speed.^[159] In 2010, Hamilton drove

Senna's original title-winning McLaren MP4/4 as part of a tribute documentary by the BBC motoring show *Top Gear*. In the documentary, along with fellow racing drivers, he named Senna as the number one driver ever.^{[160][161]}

Earlier in his career, Hamilton was criticised for being hot-headed at times, as demonstrated when he was disqualified in Imola in the GP2 Series for overtaking the safety car, something he went on to repeat four years later in Formula One at the 2010 European Grand Prix in Valencia.^[162] Following his move to Mercedes, Hamilton was credited with demonstrating greater maturity, while maintaining his ruthlessness and aggression. The official Formula One website describes him as "invariably a fierce but fair fighter".^[75]

Reception

As a driver he is absolutely outstanding – as good as there's ever been. Apart from the talent, he's a good guy, he gets out on the street and supports and promotes Formula One. He is box office, 100 per cent.

—Bernie Ecclestone, speaking of Hamilton in 2015^[163]

Hamilton has been described as the best driver of his generation,^{[82][85][102]} and one of the greatest Formula One drivers.^{[63][64][164]} including by Chase Carey and Martin Brundle.^{[165][166]} Several Formula One drivers and experts have described Hamilton as the greatest Formula One driver of all time.^[note 2] Writing in *Autocar*, Jim Holden suggested Hamilton might not only be among the greatest British drivers in Formula One but one of the greatest British sportsmen.^[180] Despite receiving plaudits from experts and fans in and out of the sport, Hamilton has been a divisive figure in the eyes of the general public, with some journalists arguing his exploits on the track have been underappreciated.^{[181][182][183]} Holden has suggested that racial bias may have contributed towards Hamilton's perceived lack of popularity relative to his achievements, with Hamilton's race and physical appearance – being mixed-race and often seen sporting earrings, dreadlocks and designer clothing – alienating some of the sport's traditional white, elderly male fanbase.^[180] Others have attributed his lack of appreciation to the perceived predictability of results during the turbo-hybrid era, likening his period of

dominance to that of Schumacher in the early 2000s, and to tennis players Steffi Graf and Martina Navratilova, all of whom became more appreciated in the latter part of their careers.^{[180][184]}

Hamilton's jet-set lifestyle and interests outside Formula One have been scrutinised.^[186] He has been praised for disregarding convention and public opinion and has been described as one of the last superstar drivers.^{[184][187]} Between race weekends Hamilton has on several occasions travelled around the world to explore a variety of interests, such as in 2018 where, after winning the Italian Grand Prix, Hamilton flew to Shanghai and New York where he released his own designer clothing line with Tommy Hilfiger, before flying immediately back to, and winning, the next race in Singapore.^[187] His Mercedes team-boss Toto Wolff has been vocal in his support for Hamilton's off-track pursuits, explaining how freedom allows Hamilton to function at his best.^[182]

Figures in the sport, such as Emerson Fittipaldi and Christian Horner, have voiced their support for Hamilton's ability to connect with fans, while Bernie Ecclestone frequently commented on his admiration of Hamilton's ability to promote the sport, observing how he is happy to engage with fans, unlike some of his peers.^[186] Since Hamilton's rookie season in 2007, Formula One's annual global revenue rose by 53%, to \$1.83 billion as of 31 July 2016.^[85] In 2019, *The Telegraph* sports journalist Luke Slater went as far as to argue that "[t]here have been few better representatives of the sport than Hamilton ... [both] on and off the track."^[188] Following Hamilton's knighthood in 2020,^[189] newly appointed Formula One CEO Stefano Domenicali said that Hamilton is "a true giant of our sport" and that "his influence is huge both in and out of a car".^[190]

He was able to win with a dominant car, with a good car like 2010 or 2012, or with bad cars like 2009 and 2011. Not all the champions can say that.

—Fernando Alonso, speaking of Hamilton in 2017^[191]

A prodigious talent as a teenager, Hamilton established himself as one of the world's best drivers following his record-breaking rookie year. Paddy Lowe has suggested that "he turned out to be the best rookie there has ever been" and that "his first half-season is just the most extraordinary in history."^[18] After his first world title a year later, many people considered Hamilton the best driver of his generation.^[20] Following Red Bull and Sebastian Vettel's four-year dominance of the sport, Hamilton's resolve was tested both professionally and personally as he did not finish higher than fourth in the Drivers' Championship from 2009 to 2013, leading some to question his status as the best driver in the sport.^[192] In spite of this, Hamilton's less successful years with McLaren have also been cited as a demonstration of driving ability as Hamilton has won at least one race in fifteen consecutive seasons,^[64] attracting high praise from experts and fellow drivers for extracting race-winning performances from cars that were not dominant.^{[191][193]}

After Hamilton clinched his second and third World Championship titles with Mercedes in 2014 and 2015, David Coulthard declared Hamilton the best driver of his generation, calling him "the Ayrton Senna of his era",^[82] an opinion which was widely accepted among the public, experts, and fellow and former drivers.^[85] As Hamilton became more widely considered the best driver of his era, public and expert debate moved from his status in modern Formula One to his status among the greatest drivers in history.^[192] The next few seasons saw Hamilton eclipse a number of records, including achieving the most all-time pole positions ahead of Michael Schumacher, leading him to be regarded by some as the greatest qualifier in history.^{[194][195]} After winning his fourth and fifth world titles, Hamilton's place among the greats of the sport became firmly established in the opinions of experts, rivals, and teammates alike,^{[196][197][198]} including among others Fernando Alonso, Carlos Sainz Jr.,^[199] Felipe Massa,^[200] Gerhard Berger,^[201] and Ross Brawn.^[202] Some journalists and pundits also consider the possibility of Hamilton being the greatest Formula One driver of all time.^{[203][204]}

Following Hamilton clinching a sixth World Drivers' Championship title in 2019, ex-Formula One driver and pundit Johnny Herbert acclaimed Hamilton as the greatest driver ever,^[170] a sentiment echoed by Wolff, who described him as "maybe the best driver that has ever existed",^[182] while Formula One staff writer Greg Stuart described Hamilton as "arguably the most complete Formula [One] driver ever".^[141] After Hamilton won his seventh title in 2020, John Watson



Hamilton is the most successful driver in Formula One history, holds the most amount of major driver records.

What strikes me now about him now is his maturity ... [Hamilton] recognises he is a role model and the influence he has and the responsibilities that come with it. He is far broader than purely a driver in [Formula One]. He has opinions about the environment, young people, fashion and music. That is part of the greater appeal of Lewis today.

—David Richards, chairman of Motorsport UK, speaking of Hamilton in 2019^[185]



Hamilton waving to fans after winning the 2018 Italian Grand Prix

stated that Hamilton "is, by a million miles, the greatest driver of his generation and you can argue he will go on to be the greatest Formula One driver of all time", and highlighted his fearlessness as being key to his success, as evidenced by his performance against double world champion team-mate Alonso in his rookie season and his decision to leave McLaren for Mercedes.^[174] Herbert compared Hamilton to tennis player Roger Federer and golfer Tiger Woods.^[205]

Helmet

From a young age, Hamilton's helmet throughout his karting years was predominantly yellow with blue, green and red ribbons. In later years a white ring was added and the ribbons were moved forward to make room for logos and advertisement space.^[206] Hamilton continued to run a predominantly yellow design for the early stage of his Formula One career, but in 2014 decided to change to a mostly white approach.^[207] In 2017, Hamilton selected his helmet design from fan submissions.^[208] The winning design used a white and yellow base colour with red and orange details, and the addition of three stars, one for each of Hamilton's three Formula One championships at that time, on either side.^[209] Over the following seasons, Hamilton continued to add more stars to his helmet on winning further World Championship titles.^[210]



Hamilton's 2007 helmet



Hamilton's helmet in 2013

Hamilton has worn specially designed one-off helmets for several weekends throughout his career. At the 2010 Monaco Grand Prix, he sported an altered helmet design with the addition of a roulette wheel image on the top.^[211] At the 2015 Malaysian Grand Prix, Hamilton brought with him a striking blue-and-green design in honour of team sponsor Petronas but was prevented from using the helmet by the FIA.^[212] Hamilton has sported gold coloured helmets three times in his career. After winning his fourth title in 2017, he entered 2017 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix in a gold helmet with four stars adorning the top of the helmet with the words *World Champion*.^[213] Hamilton wore a gold helmet at the 2018 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix after sealing his fifth world title, towards which he made reference with five stars on either side of the design,^[210] and did so again at the 2019 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, this time with six stars following his sixth World Championship title.^[214]

Hamilton has also used one-off helmet designs to pay tribute to influential figures in his career. At the 2011 Brazilian Grand Prix, he wore a special helmet in tribute to Ayrton Senna which was auctioned after the race in aid of the Ayrton Senna Foundation.^[215] At the 2019 Monaco Grand Prix, Hamilton, like fellow driver Sebastian Vettel, wore a special helmet to pay tribute to Niki Lauda, who died at the start of the week. The helmet was painted red and white, Lauda's classic colours, and had his name printed on the back. After the race, Hamilton reflected on Lauda's career, saying: "Ultimately, as a driver, my goal one day is to hopefully be as respected as he was ... He's definitely someone who led by a great example, left a great example, and was a real hero to so many."^[216] Hamilton again wore a special helmet to pay tribute to Ayrton Senna at the 2019 Brazilian Grand Prix.^[217]

Hamilton switched into a different design in 2020, which used black as base colour with purple details, in support of Black Lives Matter, he also continued to use the same design in 2021.^[218] Hamilton wore a rainbow helmet at the 2021 Qatar Grand Prix, 2021 Saudi Arabian Grand Prix, and 2021 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix in support of the LGBTQ+ community.^[219] Ahead of the 2022 season, Hamilton reverted to using a yellow helmet design for the first time since 2013, it also used purple details.^[220] He also used one-off designs for the 2022 Monaco Grand Prix, 2022 Japanese Grand Prix and 2022 São Paulo Grand Prix.^{[221][222][223]} Evolutions of the yellow helmet design were used in 2023 and 2024.^[224] He wore special designs for the 2023 Japanese Grand Prix and 2023 São Paulo Grand Prix.^{[225][226]}

Rivalries

Fernando Alonso

Hamilton's debut season saw him partner two-time and defending World Champion Fernando Alonso. In their time as teammates, tensions arose between the two drivers and McLaren as a result of several incidents. The first tensions surfaced after Hamilton finished second behind Alonso at Monaco in 2007.^[227] After post-race comments made by Hamilton which suggested he had been forced into a supporting role, the FIA investigated whether McLaren had broken rules by enforcing team orders.^[228] McLaren denied favouring Alonso, and the FIA subsequently vindicated the team, stating that "McLaren were able to pursue an optimum team strategy because they had a substantial advantage over all other cars ... nothing which could be described as interfering with the race result."^[228]



Alonso (left) and Hamilton (right) at the 2007 Canadian Grand Prix

Tensions surfaced again at the 2007 Hungarian Grand Prix, where during the final qualifying session Hamilton went out on track ahead of Alonso and ignored requests from the team to let him through: the two drivers had been taking turns on a race-by-race basis to lead during qualifying, which gave the leading driver an edge due to the fuel load regulations then in place, and Alonso was due to lead in Hungary.^[18] Hamilton was then delayed in the pits by Alonso and thus unable to set a final lap time before the end of the session.^[229] Alonso was relegated to sixth place on the starting grid thus promoting Hamilton, who had qualified second, to first, while McLaren was docked Constructors' Championship points. Hamilton said he thought the penalty was "quite light if anything" and only regretted the loss of points.^[230] Hamilton was reported to have sworn at Dennis on the team radio following the incident.^[231] British motorsport journal *Autosport* claimed that this "[led] Dennis to throw his headphones on the pit wall in disgust: a gesture that was misinterpreted by many to be in reaction to Alonso's pole";^[232] however, McLaren later issued a statement on behalf of Hamilton that denied the use of any profanity.^[233]

As a result of the events over the 2007 season, the relationship between Hamilton and Alonso reportedly collapsed, with the pair not on speaking terms for a short period.^{[234][235]} In the aftermath it was reported that Hamilton had been targeted by Luca di Montezemolo regarding a Ferrari drive for 2008.^[236] The rivalry between the pair led to speculation that either Hamilton or Alonso would leave McLaren at the end of the season;^{[237][238][239]} Alonso and McLaren terminated their contract by mutual consent in November that year, ending his and Hamilton's time as teammates.^[240] In subsequent years, tensions between the pair dissipated, and the mutual respect has grown,^[241] with Alonso praising Hamilton in 2017 saying "[Hamilton] was able to win with a dominant car, with a good car like 2010 or 2012, or with bad cars like 2009 and 2011. Not all the champions can say that."^[191] Alonso later described Hamilton as one of the top five greatest drivers of all time.^[63] On the cool-down lap after Alonso's final race before his two-year hiatus in 2018, Hamilton joined Sebastian Vettel in paying tribute to Alonso by driving, each on one side, in a formation to the start-finish straight where all three executed donuts.^[242]

In their time together as teammates, Hamilton and Alonso won 8 of 17 races in the 2007 Formula One season. Hamilton had 4 victories, 12 podium finishes and qualified ahead of Alonso 10 times. Alonso also had 4 victories, 12 podium finishes but qualified ahead of Hamilton only 7 times. At the end of their season as teammates, the pair were tied on 109 points, with Hamilton placing second and Alonso third in the World Drivers' Championship by virtue of Hamilton having more second-place finishes.^[243]

Nico Rosberg

When Hamilton joined Mercedes in 2013, he was paired alongside old karting teammate and friend Nico Rosberg. Over their four seasons as teammates, a period of Mercedes dominance in Formula One, the pair's relationship became strained and, at times, led to volatile confrontations on and off the track.^[244] Hamilton and Rosberg were first teammates in 2000, when they were in karting.^[245] They raced for Mercedes Benz McLaren in Formula A, where Hamilton became European champion, with Rosberg not far behind. Robert Kubica, who raced with them before Formula One, recalled how they were competitive both on and off the track, saying that "they would even have races to eat pizza, always eating two at a time."^[246] Sports journalist Paul Weaver contrasts their upbringings:^[246] Rosberg, an only child, was born in Germany but brought up in Monaco and was the son of a wealthy former Formula One world champion, Keke Rosberg, whereas Hamilton was born on a council estate in Stevenage, and his father had to work multiple jobs to fund his son's junior racing.^[20]



Hamilton (left) and Rosberg (right) at the 2016 Malaysian Grand Prix

Pundit and commentator Will Buxton compared the character and driving styles of the pair, labelling Hamilton as the faster driver with more natural ability but with an intellect to match Rosberg's.^[162] Buxton wrote:

Man to man against Rosberg, I can't recall a single race this year where in the same machinery Hamilton's fuel usage has been higher. He has made his tires last. He has had to fight from the back of the field time and again (think Germany, think Hungary) and yet he hasn't overworked his tires, he hasn't used too much fuel. He has learned how to drive these new cars, and to extract the most from them using the least ... Far from the unintelligent chancer many paint Hamilton to be, he is proving to be the intellectual match of his teammate and, the better racer to boot.^[162]

Their old karting boss, Dino Chiesa, said Hamilton was the faster driver whereas Rosberg, who once said to Chiesa "everything relates to physics and maths", was always more analytical.^[20] This led some to believe that Rosberg would achieve greater success in Formula One, the highest level of open-wheel racing, due to the intellectual capacity required to manage brakes, energy harvesting, tyre management, and moderate fuel usage.^[162] Hamilton's tyre management has frequently allowed him to push on for longer, often enabling optimum race strategies, and his fuel usage has regularly been better than almost anyone on the grid. Sky Sport's Mark Hughes, commented: "Rosberg has a more scientific methodology, looks to fine-tune more specifically than Hamilton who typically tends just to find a balance he can work with, then adapt his driving around it."^{[142][247]}

In their time together as teammates, Hamilton and Rosberg won 54 of 78 races over four seasons. Hamilton had 32 victories, 55 podium finishes, and qualified ahead of Rosberg 42 times, while Rosberg had 22 victories, 50 podium finishes, and qualified ahead of Hamilton 36 times. During this period, Hamilton won two World Championship titles to Rosberg's one, and scored more points in three out of their four seasons together.^[248]

Sebastian Vettel

Hamilton describes his rivalry with Sebastian Vettel as his favourite, believing their battles helped bring them closer together.^[249] After three years of Mercedes's dominance from 2014 to 2016, Ferrari produced a car that was capable of fighting for the championship in 2017 and 2018.^{[250][251][252][253]} Vettel, who was then driving for Ferrari, enjoyed an early lead on points, but Mercedes and Hamilton fought back and ultimately won the championships in both seasons. While there were some on-track flash points, most notably the 2017 Azerbaijan Grand Prix, when Vettel accused Hamilton of brake checking and drove into Hamilton in retaliation, earning a penalty,^[254] the pair developed a strong mutual respect in a hard but fairly contested fight.^{[255][256][257]} In 2021, Hamilton recalled:



Hamilton (left) and Vettel (right) at the 2017 United States Grand Prix

Mine and Seb's battle were my favourite so far. It's knowing I was racing against an incredible driver, not only that but a great man in Seb who is a four-time world champion and we were racing against another team, he was at Ferrari who were very strong at the time. It took a lot out of both of us in that period of time, to remain focused to deliver weekend in, weekend out. That was a difficult period for us and it brought us closer, because the respect we have between us is huge.^[258]

Public image and influence

Racist treatment



Hamilton was racially abused by fans during 2010 pre-season testing at Jerez.

The first and as of 2024 the only black driver to race in Formula One, Hamilton has been subject to racist abuse throughout his career. In 2007, Hamilton suffered racist abuse from Spanish Formula One supporters at the Chinese Grand Prix.^[259] In 2008, Hamilton was heckled and otherwise abused during pre-season testing at the Circuit de Catalunya by several Spanish spectators who wore black face paint and black wigs, as well as shirts bearing the words "Hamilton's family [*sic*]"^[260] The FIA warned Spanish authorities about the repetition of such behaviour,^[261] and launched a "Race Against Racism" campaign.^[262] Shortly before the 2008 Brazilian Grand Prix, a website owned by the Spanish branch of the New York-based advertising agency TBWA and named *pinchalaruedadeHamilton*, which translates into English as "burst Hamilton's tyre", was featured in the British media. The site contained an image of Interlagos that allowed users to leave nails and porcupines on the track for Hamilton's car to run over. Among thousands

of comments left since 2007, some included racial insults.^[263] In 2021, Hamilton was subjected to online racist abuse following a controversial win at the British Grand Prix. Mercedes, Formula One, and the FIA issued a joint statement condemning the abuse and called for those responsible to be held accountable.^[264]

Hamilton's treatment by the media and critics has, at times, been criticised as being racist. In 2014, *The Guardian* journalist Joseph Harker highlighted double-standards in Hamilton's treatment compared to other British drivers by British newspapers, suggesting that his skin colour has played a factor in a perceived lack of acceptance among the British public.^[265] In 2019, footballer Rio Ferdinand described media scrutiny of Hamilton as having "racist undertones" and contrasted Hamilton's treatment to that of fellow British driver Jenson Button.^[266] At the start of his Formula One career, Hamilton said that he "tried to ignore the fact [he] was the first black guy ever to race in the sport" but later stated that he had since grown to "appreciate the implications",^[267] and changed his approach to promote equality within the sport.^[268] In 2019, Toto Wolff, Hamilton's team boss at Mercedes, described how Hamilton was "scarred for life" by racist abuse inflicted during his childhood.^[269]

Activism and philanthropy

Diversity and anti-racism

Hamilton is a prominent advocate against racism and for increased diversity in motorsport.^{[271][272]} He has questioned racial politics in Formula One on several occasions. In 2011, after being summoned to the stewards in five out of the first six races of the season, Hamilton quipped, "Maybe it's because I'm black, that's what Ali G says."^[273] In 2018, Hamilton criticised the lack of diversity in Formula One, describing how nothing had changed in his eleven years in the sport before saying: "Kids, people, there are so many jobs in this sport of which anybody, no matter your ethnicity or background, can make it and fit in."^{[274][275]}

As part of the U.S. national anthem protests, Hamilton took the knee before every race he entered in the 2020 Formula One season in support of the Black Lives Matter movement and wore t-shirts bearing the Black Lives Matter slogan.^[104] Following the murder of George Floyd while being arrested in May 2020, which sparked national and global protests,^[276] Hamilton criticised prominent figures in Formula One for their silence on the issue, writing on Instagram:

I see those of you who are staying silent, some of you the biggest of stars yet you stay silent in the midst of injustice. Not a sign from anybody in my industry which of course is a white dominated sport. I'm one of the only people of colour there yet I stand alone. ... I would have thought by now you would see why this happens and say something about it but you can't stand alongside us. Just know I know who you are and I see you. ... I do not stand with those looting and burning buildings but those who are protesting peacefully. There can be no peace until our so called leaders make change. This is not just America, this is the UK, this is Spain, this is Italy and all over. ... The way minorities are treated has to change, how you educate those in your country of equality, racism, classism and that we are all the same. We are not born with racism and hate in our hearts, it is taught by those we look up to.^{[277][278][279]}

People come up to me from different ethnic backgrounds saying, "My kid wants to be you one day", and I can assure you that when I started racing, there weren't people from those [ethnic backgrounds]. I take great pride in that.

—Hamilton in 2017 commenting on his influence on minority representation in Formula One^[270]

Following Hamilton's comments, several drivers released statements about Floyd's murder and voiced their support for the Black Lives Matter movement, and support was expressed from other figures in the sport such as Toto Wolff, the Mercedes team boss.^{[280][281]} Ross Brawn, managing director for Formula One, said that the organisation "supports [Hamilton] totally", describing Hamilton as "a great ambassador for the sport". He acknowledged that Hamilton's comments "are very valid" and that the sport "can give greater opportunity for minority and ethnic groups to get involved in motorsport". Brawn stated that Formula One was working to increase diversity within the sport, with efforts targeted at increasing driving opportunities at grassroots level as well as across all roles in Formula One.^[282]

During the 2020 Tuscan Grand Prix weekend, including on the podium, Hamilton wore a T-shirt bearing "Arrest the cops who killed Breonna Taylor" on the front and "Say her name" with a photo of Taylor on the back, in reference to the killings of Breonna Taylor. Following an investigation, the FIA announced that only race suits done up to the neck can be worn on the podium and that only official team attire can be worn in the media pen.^[283] In anticipation of the FIA's decision, Hamilton said that he recognised that they have "certain limits that they feel that they have to work within", but he "[didn't] regret a single moment of it" and cited the "really positive support from the fans".^[272]

In June 2020, it was announced that Hamilton had established The Hamilton Commission with the Royal Academy of Engineering. The commission had been in development since December 2019 but publicly launched to coincide with the heightened media and public interest in the Black Lives Matter movement, and greater scrutiny of race inequality in society. The partnership with the Royal Academy of Engineering was established to find ways in which motorsport can engage more young people from black backgrounds with science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects and, ultimately, employ them in motorsport or in other engineering sectors.^{[284][285]} In May 2021, Hamilton became the first recipient of the inaugural Laureus Athlete Advocate of the Year Award for his involvement in the fight against racism.^[286]

Building on the recommendations of the Hamilton Commission, Hamilton launched Mission 44, a charitable foundation created to help young people from under-represented backgrounds achieve their ambitions in wider society, in July 2021. Hamilton pledged £20m of his personal wealth to support the work of the charity, including supporting organisations and programmes that narrow the gap in employment and education.^[287] Mission 44 will work in conjunction with a joint charitable foundation between Hamilton and the Mercedes Formula One team, called Ignite, which was also launched in July 2021.^[288] Ignite focuses on increasing diversity in motorsport, by improving educational opportunities and offering financial support.^[289]

Human rights

In December 2020, Hamilton confronted the Bahrain's human rights abuses and spoke out on the allegations of sportswashing. Hamilton said he "won't let it go unnoticed" after an 11-year-old boy, Ahmed Ramadhan, wrote a letter to Hamilton, asking him to save his father, who was facing the death penalty, after a confession was allegedly extracted through torture for the death of a policeman.^{[290][291]} Hamilton spoke to human rights organisations and legal experts. He also spoke with Bahraini officials about the country's human rights. The F1 champion said that while he had no authority to choose the location for his race, "going to these countries and just ignoring what is happening in those places" is not the right way.^[292] In July 2021, Hamilton spoke out against the "cowardly" Hungarian anti-LGBT law, after the country introduced a law that limits discussions of LGBT sexualities in school.^[293]

On 28 May 2024, he called on Israel to halt its [offensive in Rafah, Gaza](#), after an Israeli airstrike on the [Tel al-Sultan refugee camp](#) killed at least 45 civilians.^[294]

Environmental and animal rights

Hamilton has repeatedly discussed [environmental issues](#) and [animal rights](#) at conferences, in interviews and in documentaries.^{[295][296]} He also uses his social media platforms to gather support for his initiatives,^[297] which range from urging [China](#) to reclassify dogs as pets instead of livestock,^[298] and backing charities which fight the [illegal wildlife trade](#),^[299] to calling for the protection of the Amazon rainforest.^[300] In January 2020, he donated US\$500,000 (approximately £383,000) to a variety of causes relating to the [bushfire crisis](#) in Australia.^[301] The money went towards the fire services and animal welfare charities.^[302]

In 2019, Hamilton asked Mercedes-Benz to swap animal-derived leather in the company's models worldwide: "I am trying to push for sustainability with my team. I am trying to get more involved in Formula 1 and be more conscious. Mercedes-Benz is a huge organisation. I have got a phone call with the CEO later today to discuss how we can work on getting rid of all the leather supplied to the cars. That is something I want to be involved in."^{[303][304]} The next year, he announced his aim of being carbon neutral by the end of the year, saying: "I don't allow anyone in my office, but also within my household, to buy any plastics. I want everything recyclable, down to deodorant, down to toothbrush, all these kinds of things ... I'm trying to make as much change as I can in my personal space. I sold my plane over a year ago. I fly a lot less now. I'm trying to fly less through the year."^[305]

UNICEF and #TOGETHERBAND

In 2012, Hamilton began working with the [United Nations Children's Fund](#) (UNICEF). In March 2012, Hamilton travelled to the [Philippines](#) where he made a short film about [Manila's street children](#). The film was shown on [ITV1](#) during [Soccer Aid](#) and helped raise over £4.9 million for UNICEF.^{[306][307][308]} In October 2012, while in [India](#) for the [Grand Prix](#), Hamilton visited a UNICEF-funded newborn care unit and nutrition centre. Hamilton said: "As a sportsman in the public eye, I know I have a role to play in helping to tell the stories of the world's most vulnerable children and I jumped at the chance to be able to do that again after a visit to Manila."^{[309][310][311]}

In 2014, Hamilton travelled to [Haiti](#) where he made a short film about child malnutrition. The film was shown on [ITV1](#) during [Soccer Aid](#), and helped raise over £6 million for UNICEF.^{[312][313][314]} In 2015, Hamilton took part in an exhibition to highlight UNICEF's work and to celebrate its twenty-year partnership with [Starwood Hotels](#).^{[315][316]} In June 2017, Hamilton joined the [Super Dads](#) initiative, a special UNICEF campaign that highlighted the critical role played by fathers in early childhood development.^{[317][318][319]} In August 2017, Hamilton visited [Havana](#) with UNICEF to learn more about its first development programmes in [Cuba](#).^{[320][321]}

In 2020, Hamilton partnered with charity campaign [#TOGETHERBAND](#) to help promote the [United Nations' 17 Global Goals](#). As part of his campaign work, Hamilton visited [Alperton Community School](#) in North West London to speak to the students about the importance of education. Hamilton is a [GOAL 4](#) Ambassador, focusing on the fight to provide quality education to all children.^[322]

Other charities

Over the past decade, Hamilton has made time for a variety of good causes, such as making donations and hospital visits to sick children.^{[323][324][325]} He has invited fans, young people,^{[326][327]} and their families to join him at [Grand Prix](#) races and social events.^{[328][329][330]} In 2013, he became the Global Education Ambassador for [Save the Children](#), supporting and promoting its education campaigns.^{[331][332][333]} Two years later, Hamilton became the first ambassador for the [Invictus Games Foundation](#), supporting wounded, injured, and sick servicemen and women.^{[334][335][336]} During the [COVID-19 pandemic](#), Hamilton's [Neat Burger](#) restaurant donated free meals to frontline [NHS](#) workers.^{[337][338]} [Neat Burger](#) also launched the "Kids Eat Free" scheme, serving free meals to school children during the [half-term break](#).^{[339][340]}

Hamilton often donates personal and professional paraphernalia for [charity auctions](#).^{[341][342][343]} He auctioned a racing kart and raised over £42,000 for [St Thomas' Hospital](#) baby charity.^[28] He raised £6,411 for the [Small Steps Project](#) in 2018, and £6,000 in 2019.^[344] In 2020, he raised another £4,000 for the [Small Steps Project](#), while a donated race suit reportedly raised £20,000 for vulnerable children.^[345] Hamilton also frequently attends charitable functions,^{[346][347]} including the [amfAR](#) gala in New York,^{[348][349]} and has supported projects and charities such as the [Make-A-Wish Foundation](#),^[350] [Comic Relief](#),^[351] [Rays of Sunshine](#),^[352] [Children in Need](#),^[353] and [Stevenage's Keech Hospice Care Children's Service](#), among others.^[354] He is also involved in charitable work through the creation of his [Lewis Hamilton Foundation](#). Registered in June 2008, the foundation provides grants and donations to a number of charitable causes.^{[355][356]}

Media reception

In December 2018, [Stevenage-born](#) Hamilton caused controversy at the [BBC Sports Personality of the Year Awards](#) where he said on live television, "It really was a dream for us all as a family to do something different. For us to get out of the slums" before immediately correcting himself, saying, "Well, not the slums, but to get out of somewhere and do something. We all set our goals very, very high but we did it as a team." While Hamilton immediately sought to correct his remarks, the leader of [Stevenage Borough Council](#) described the comments as "disappointing" and observed that people felt "very offended".^[357] Hamilton posted a video on [Instagram](#) in which he apologised for his comments, saying: "I'm super proud of where I come from and I hope you know that I represent in the best way I can always ... Particularly when you are up in front of a crowd, trying to find the right words to express the long journey you've had in life, I chose the wrong words."^[358] The town mayor subsequently accepted his "gracious apology".^[359]

Hamilton's contribution and influence has been recognised regularly in the [Powerlist](#), an annual list of the most influential Black Britons, in which he has ranked in the top 10 in 2016 and 2017.^{[360][361]} In 2021, Hamilton was named the most influential Black Briton in the [14th Powerlist](#), for his sporting success and his advocacy in the [Black Lives Matter](#) movement.^{[362][363]} In 2020, he was listed as one of [Time](#) magazine's [100 most influential people globally](#), and was knighted in the [2021 New Year Honours](#) for services to motorsports.^{[364][365][366]}

Hamilton was one of several figures whose tax arrangements were singled out in a report by the charity [Christian Aid](#) in 2008.^{[367][368][369]} That year, Hamilton received criticism from UK members of parliament for avoiding UK taxes.^[370] Following the leak of the [Paradise Papers](#) in November 2017, it was reported that Hamilton had avoided paying £3.3 million of [value added tax](#) (VAT) on his private jet, worth £16.5 million.^[371] According to BBC *Panorama*, the leasing deal set up by his advisers appeared to be "artificial" and "did not comply with an EU and UK ban on VAT refunds for private use". The BBC also said that



Waxwork of Hamilton at Madame Tussauds, London

Hamilton's Instagram account provided evidence that the jet was used for personal trips.^[371] The jet was sold in September 2019.^[372] Despite not residing in the UK, HMRC data published in 2019 puts Hamilton among the top 5,000 highest UK tax payers. Hamilton told *The Sunday Times* in 2014: "What people don't realise is that I pay tax here [in the UK], but I don't earn all my money here. I race in 19 different countries, so I earn my money in 20 different places and I pay tax in several different places, and I pay a lot here [UK] as well. I am contributing to the country."^{[373][374]}

Other ventures

Hamilton also has interests in music, saying that "music has been a huge passion of mine since I was really young. I started playing guitar when I was 13. In here, I can be me, I can be vulnerable. I can show a side of me that people don't get to see."^[375] He features on Christina Aguilera's 2018 song "Pipe" under the pseudonym XNDA, although he did not confirm this until July 2020, when he revealed he had been writing and recording music for ten years.^{[376][377]} During his final year with McLaren, Hamilton voiced an animated version of himself in the short series *Tooned*. Hamilton also made a guest appearance in *Cars 2* (2011) in which he voices an anthropomorphic version of himself.^[378] He then voiced a voice command assistant in *Cars 3*

(2017).^[379] Hamilton is credited as an executive producer for the 2018 documentary film *The Game Changers*.^[380] Hamilton has also revealed he was offered a role as a fighter pilot in the film *Top Gun: Maverick* (2022) by Tom Cruise but was forced to decline due to his Formula One commitments.^[381] He was also served as the "maestro" of the *Gran Turismo* series since *Gran Turismo Sport* in 2017,^[382] and his Time Trial Challenge DLC pack was released in that said game on 28 November 2019.^[383] He was one of the executive producers on *Motorcycle Mary* (2024), a short documentary film about Mary McGee.^[384]

In 2018, Hamilton launched the clothing line TOMMYXLEWIS during New York Fashion Week with American fashion designer Tommy Hilfiger alongside models Winnie Harlow and Hailey Baldwin.^[385] Hamilton stated "[g]rowing up, I remember seeing the iconic Tommy Hilfiger flag" and Hilfiger commented on Hamilton, saying that "Lewis is bold in everything he does ... He's not afraid to take risks. And he has a cool and sophisticated style that really speaks to the new generation of Tommy fans."^[386]

In September 2019, Hamilton launched a vegan restaurant named Neat Burger.^[387] It claims to be the first international plant-based burger chain.^[388] In 2020, Neat Burger was crowned Best Vegan Restaurant of the Year at the Deliveroo Restaurant Awards.^[389] In August 2020, *Daily Front Row* listed Hamilton as one of a group of high-profile investors who purchased *W*, a troubled fashion magazine.^[390] In 2021, for the second consecutive year, Neat Burger was crowned Best Vegan Restaurant at the Deliveroo Restaurant Awards. Neat Burger was also named People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals's inaugural Company of the Year.^[391] Hamilton became an Ambassador for the luxury watch company IWC, owned by Richemont. Throughout 2021, Hamilton toured the world via PORTL hologram, first in Europe and then making its U.S. debut in Los Angeles in September.^[392]

In September 2020, Hamilton launched Team X44 to compete in the all-electric SUV off-road racing series Extreme E from the 2021 season on.^[393] The X44 team finished 2nd in the inaugural Extreme E championship, behind Nico Rosberg's RXR team.^[394] In January 2022, X44 were crowned inaugural winners of Extreme E Sustainability Award.^[395] The team won the 2022 Championship in the final race of the season, beating RXR, who were disqualified from the race.^[396]

In August 2022, Hamilton joined the newly established ownership group of the National Football League's Denver Broncos.^[397] In October 2022, Hamilton founded the production company, Dawn Apollo Films. Its upcoming debut projects include a film titled *F1* starring Brad Pitt and directed by Joseph Kosinski, and an untitled documentary film about Hamilton. Both projects will be co-produced by Hamilton, and released on Apple TV+.^[398] In November 2023, Epic Games added a cosmetic Hamilton player skin to *Fortnite*. A likeness of Hamilton's dog, Roscoe, was also added to the game.^[399]

Personal life

In 2017 Hamilton told the BBC that he had become vegan because "[a]s the human race, what we are doing to the world ... the pollution [in terms of emissions of global-warming gases] coming from the amount of cows that are being produced is incredible. The cruelty is horrible and I don't necessarily want to support that and I want to live a healthier life."^[400] In 2018 he was named the PETA Person of the Year for his vegan activism.^[401] The same year Hamilton said in an interview that he gave up drinking "a while ago".^[402] His racing number has always been 44 because when he started racing at age 8 his father's red Vauxhall Cavalier had the number plate "F44" and it was his father's idea to use it.^[403]

Hamilton is a fan of art and has said that one of his favourite artists is Andy Warhol.^[404] Prior to the 2014 United States Grand Prix, Hamilton wore a gold-framed version of Warhol's *Cars, Mercedes-Benz 300 SL Coupe* painting hanging from a chain around his neck.^[405] From November 2007 to February 2015, Hamilton was in an on-and-off relationship with Nicole Scherzinger, the lead singer of the American girl group Pussycat Dolls.^{[406][407]}

Hamilton is a Catholic; he says that he prays regularly and is guided by his faith.^[408] Hamilton believes that he has the "hand of God" resting over him when racing in Formula One.^{[409][410]} Hamilton is also a supporter of LGBT rights, and strongly criticised the Hungarian government before the 2021 Hungarian Grand Prix.^[411] while also calling out the "terrifying" Saudi Arabian LGBT laws before that Grand Prix.^[412] Hamilton revealed in March 2022 that he is in the process of legally changing his name to include his mother's maiden name, Larbalestier, as a middle name.^[413] Hamilton was made an honorary citizen of Brazil on 9 June 2022 after a proposal made by politician André Figueiredo was passed in the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies.^[414]

Legal issues

Hamilton was suspended from driving in France for a month on 18 December 2007 after being caught speeding at 196 km/h (122 mph) on a French motorway. His Mercedes-Benz CLK was also impounded.^{[415][416]} Two days before the 2010 Australian Grand Prix, Victoria Police witnessed Hamilton "deliberately losing traction" in his silver Mercedes-AMG C63, and impounded the car for 48 hours. Hamilton immediately released a statement of apology for "driving in an over-exuberant manner". After being charged with intentionally losing control of a vehicle, Hamilton was eventually fined A\$500 (£288), being described as a "hoon" by the magistrate.^{[417][418][419]}

In 2017 Hamilton's rights management company 44IP opposed Swatch Group's application to register a trade mark for "HAMILTON INTERNATIONAL" in Europe for the sale of watches and timepieces. This was likely to have been encouraged, or even required, by Hamilton's own watch sponsor. 44IP alleged that Swatch Group's application was made in bad faith and that it was contrary to "fair competition" in relation to 44IP's existing "LEWIS HAMILTON" mark. In

2020 the case was heard before the [European Union Intellectual Property Office](#) (EUIPO). The EUIPO rejected 44IP's arguments, ruling that there had been no bad faith by Swatch Group (with "HAMILTON INTERNATIONAL" having been used on relevant goods since 1892) and that 44IP's "LEWIS HAMILTON" trade mark did not extend to the word "HAMILTON" alone for the purposes of protecting the existing mark.^[420]

Residence

Hamilton moved to Luins, Vaud, Switzerland, in 2007, citing privacy as his main reason for leaving the UK. He later said on the television show *Parkinson* that taxation was also a factor in his decision.^{[421][422][423]} In 2010, Hamilton, like many other Formula One drivers, moved to Monaco, purchasing a house worth a reported £10 million. Hamilton also owns an apartment in Manhattan, New York, which he bought for US\$40 million in 2017, and an estate in Colorado where he has said he would live after his retirement.^[424]

Wealth and income

In 2015 Hamilton was ranked as the richest British sportsperson, with an estimated personal fortune of £88 million.^[425] In 2018 it was reported that Hamilton had a net worth of £159 million.^[426] In 2020 Hamilton's fortune was an estimated £224 million, making him the richest British sports star in the history of the *Sunday Times Rich List*.^[427] By 2022 that figure had increased to £300 million.^[428]

Before the 2015 Monaco Grand Prix weekend, Hamilton signed a contract to stay with Mercedes until the end of the 2018 season in a deal reportedly worth more than £100 million over the three years, making him one of the best-paid drivers in Formula One.^[83] In the week leading up to the 2018 German Grand Prix, Hamilton signed a two-year contract with Mercedes, reported to be worth up to £40 million per year, making him the best-paid driver in the history of Formula One.^[91] According to *Forbes*, Hamilton was one of the highest-paid athletes of the 2010s decade,^[429] and also the highest-paid Formula One driver from 2013 to 2021.^[430]

Karting record

Karting career summary

Season	Series	Team	Position
1995	<u>Super 1 National Championship</u> – IAME Cadet		1st
1996	Kartmasters British Grand Prix – Comer Cadet		1st
1997	<u>Super 1 National Championship</u> – Formula Yamaha		1st
1998	Torneo Industrie – 100 Junior		19th
	Green Helmet Trophy – Cadets		12th
	Italian Open Masters– ICA Junior		4th
1999	Torneo Industrie Open – ICA		1st
	South Garda Winter Cup – ICA Junior		6th
	Trofeo Andrea Margutti – 100 Junior		18th
	Italian Open Masters – ICA Junior		4th
	<u>European Championship</u> – ICA Junior		2nd
2000	Trofeo Andrea Margutti – Formula A	MBM.com	7th
	<u>World Cup</u> – Formula A		1st
	<u>European Championship</u> – Formula A		1st
	<u>World Championship</u> – Formula A		20th
2001	South Garda Winter Cup – Formula Super A	MBM.com	7th
	Italian Open Masters – Formula A		4th
	<u>World Championship</u> – Formula Super A		15th
Source: ^[431]			

Racing record

Racing career summary

Season	Series	Team	Races	Wins	Poles	F/Laps	Podiums	Points	Position
2001	Formula Renault UK Winter Series	Manor Motorsport	4	0	0	0	0	48	7th
2002	Formula Renault UK	Manor Motorsport	13	3	3	5	7	274	3rd
	Formula Renault 2000 Eurocup		4	1	1	2	3	92	5th
2003	Formula Renault UK	Manor Motorsport	15	10	11	9	13	419	1st
	British Formula 3 Championship		2	0	0	0	0	0	NC
	Formula Renault 2000 Masters		2	0	0	0	1	24	12th

	Formula Renault 2000 Germany		2	0	0	0	0	25	27th
	Korea Super Prix		1	0	1	0	0	N/A	NC
	Macau Grand Prix		1	0	0	0	0	N/A	NC
2004	Formula 3 Euro Series	Manor Motorsport	20	1	1	2	5	69	5th
	Bahrain Superprix		1	1	0	0	1	N/A	1st
	Macau Grand Prix		1	0	1	0	0	N/A	14th
	Masters of Formula 3		1	0	0	0	0	N/A	7th
2005	Formula 3 Euro Series	ASM Formule 3	20	15	13	10	17	172	1st
	Masters of Formula 3		1	1	1	1	1	N/A	1st
2006	GP2 Series	ART Grand Prix	21	5	1	7	14	114	1st
2007	Formula One	Vodafone McLaren Mercedes	17	4	6	2	12	109	2nd
2008	Formula One	Vodafone McLaren Mercedes	18	5	7	1	10	98	1st
2009	Formula One	Vodafone McLaren Mercedes	17	2	4	0	5	49	5th
2010	Formula One	Vodafone McLaren Mercedes	19	3	1	5	9	240	4th
2011	Formula One	Vodafone McLaren Mercedes	19	3	1	3	6	227	5th
2012	Formula One	Vodafone McLaren Mercedes	20	4	7	1	7	190	4th
2013	Formula One	Mercedes-AMG Petronas F1 Team	19	1	5	1	5	189	4th
2014	Formula One	Mercedes-AMG Petronas F1 Team	19	11	7	7	16	384	1st
2015	Formula One	Mercedes-AMG Petronas F1 Team	19	10	11	8	17	381	1st
2016	Formula One	Mercedes-AMG Petronas F1 Team	21	10	12	3	17	380	2nd
2017	Formula One	Mercedes-AMG Petronas Motorsport	20	9	11	7	13	363	1st
2018	Formula One	Mercedes-AMG Petronas Motorsport	21	11	11	3	17	408	1st
2019	Formula One	Mercedes-AMG Petronas Motorsport	21	11	5	6	17	413	1st
2020	Formula One	Mercedes-AMG Petronas F1 Team	16	11	10	6	14	347	1st
2021	Formula One	Mercedes-AMG Petronas F1 Team	22	8	5	6	17	387.5	2nd
2022	Formula One	Mercedes-AMG Petronas F1 Team	22	0	0	2	9	240	6th
2023	Formula One	Mercedes-AMG Petronas F1 Team	22	0	1	4	6	234	3rd
2024	Formula One	Mercedes-AMG Petronas F1 Team	16	2	0	2	4	164*	6th*
Source:[431][432]									



* Season still in progress.

Complete Formula Renault 2.0 UK Championship results

(key) (Races in **bold** indicate pole position; races in *italics* indicate fastest lap)

Year	Entrant	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	DC	Po
2002	Manor Motorsport	BRH 3	OUL 15	THR 2	SIL 9	THR 1	BRH 20	CRO 6	SNE 1 2	SNE 2 Ret	KNO 2	BRH 1	DON 1 1	DON 2 4					3rd	2
2003	Manor Motorsport	SNE 1 2	SNE 2 3	BRH Ret	THR 2	SIL 1	ROC 1	CRO 1 1	CRO 2 1	DON 1 Ret	DON 2 1	SNE 1	BRH 1 1	BRH 2 1	DON 1 1	DON 2 1	OUL 1 1	OUL 2 1	1st	4
Source:																				

Complete Macau Grand Prix results

Year	Team	Car	Qualifying	Quali Race	Main race	Ref
2003	 Manor Motorsport	Dallara F303	18th	N/A	DNF	[433]
2004	 Manor Motorsport	Dallara F304	2nd	1st	14th	[434]

Complete Formula 3 Euro Series results

(key) (Races in **bold** indicate pole position; races in *italics* indicate fastest lap)

Year	Entrant	Chassis	Engine	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<u>2004</u>	<u>Manor Motorsport</u>	<u>Dallara F302/049</u>	<u>HWA-Mercedes</u>	<u>HOC</u> <u>1</u> 11	<u>HOC</u> <u>2</u> 6	<u>EST</u> <u>1</u> Ret	<u>EST</u> <u>2</u> 9	<u>ADR</u> <u>1</u> Ret	<u>ADR</u> <u>2</u> 5	<u>PAU</u> <u>1</u> 4	<u>PAU</u> <u>2</u> 7	<u>NOR</u> <u>1</u> 1	<i><u>NOR</u></i> <i><u>2</u></i> 3	<u>MAG</u> <u>1</u> Ret	<u>MAG</u> <u>2</u> 21	<u>NÜR</u> <u>1</u> 3
<u>2005</u>	<u>ASM Formule 3</u>	<u>Dallara F305/021</u>	<u>Mercedes</u>	<i><u>HOC</u></i> <u>1</u> 1	<u>HOC</u> <u>2</u> 3	<i><u>PAU</u></i> <u>1</u> 1	<i><u>PAU</u></i> <u>2</u> 1	— DSQ	<i><u>SPA</u></i> <u>2</u> 1	<u>MON</u> <u>1</u> 1	<u>MON</u> <u>2</u> 1	<i><u>OSC</u></i> <u>1</u> 3	<i><u>OSC</u></i> <u>2</u> 1	<i><u>NOR</u></i> <u>1</u> 1	<i><u>NOR</u></i> <u>2</u> 1	<i><u>NÜR</u></i> <u>1</u> 12
Source: ^[435] ^[436]																

Complete GP2 Series results

(key) (Races in **bold** indicate pole position; races in *italics* indicate fastest lap)

Year	Entrant	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<u>2006</u>	<u>ART Grand Prix</u>	<u>VAL</u> <u>FEA</u> 2	<u>VAL</u> <u>SPR</u> 6	— DSQ	<u>IMO</u> <u>SPR</u> 10	<i><u>NÜR</u></i> <u>FEA</u> 1	<u>NÜR</u> <u>SPR</u> 1	<u>CAT</u> <u>FEA</u> 2	<u>CAT</u> <u>SPR</u> 4	<u>MON</u> <u>FEA</u> 1	<i><u>SIL</u></i> <i><u>FEA</u></i> 1	<i><u>SIL</u></i> <u>SPR</u> 1	<u>MAG</u> <u>FEA</u> 19	<u>MAG</u> <u>SPR</u> 5	<u>HOC</u> <u>FEA</u> 2	<u>HOC</u> <u>SPR</u> 3	<u>HUN</u> <u>FEA</u> 10	<u>HUN</u> <u>SPR</u> 2	<u>IST</u> <u>FEA</u> 2	<i><u>IST</u></i> <i><u>SPR</u></i> 2
Source: ^[437]																				

Complete Formula One results

(key) (Races in **bold** indicate pole position; races in *italics* indicate fastest lap)

Year	Entrant	Chassis	Engine	1	2	3	4	5	
<u>2007</u>	<u>Vodafone McLaren Mercedes</u>	<u>McLaren MP4-22</u>	<u>Mercedes-Benz FO 108T 2.4 V8</u>	<u>AUS</u> 3	<u>MAL</u> 2	<u>BHR</u> 2	<u>ESP</u> 2	<u>MON</u> 2	C
<u>2008</u>	<u>Vodafone McLaren Mercedes</u>	<u>McLaren MP4-23</u>	<u>Mercedes-Benz FO 108V 2.4 V8</u>	<u>AUS</u> 1	<u>MAL</u> 5	<u>BHR</u> 13	<u>ESP</u> 3	<u>TUR</u> 2	M
<u>2009</u>	<u>Vodafone McLaren Mercedes</u>	<u>McLaren MP4-24</u>	<u>Mercedes-Benz FO 108W 2.4 V8</u>	— DSQ	<u>MAL</u> 7 [†]	<u>CHN</u> 6	<u>BHR</u> 4	<u>ESP</u> 9	M
<u>2010</u>	<u>Vodafone McLaren Mercedes</u>	<u>McLaren MP4-25</u>	<u>Mercedes-Benz FO 108X 2.4 V8</u>	<u>BHR</u> 3	<u>AUS</u> 6	<u>MAL</u> 6	<i><u>CHN</u></i> 2	<i><u>ESP</u></i> 14 [†]	M
<u>2011</u>	<u>Vodafone McLaren Mercedes</u>	<u>McLaren MP4-26</u>	<u>Mercedes-Benz FO 108Y 2.4 V8</u>	<u>AUS</u> 2	<u>MAL</u> 8	<u>CHN</u> 1	<u>TUR</u> 4	<i><u>ESP</u></i> 2	M
<u>2012</u>	<u>Vodafone McLaren Mercedes</u>	<u>McLaren MP4-27</u>	<u>Mercedes-Benz FO 108Z 2.4 V8</u>	<u>AUS</u> 3	<u>MAL</u> 3	<u>CHN</u> 3	<u>BHR</u> 8	<u>ESP</u> 8	M
<u>2013</u>	<u>Mercedes-AMG Petronas F1 Team</u>	<u>Mercedes F1 W04</u>	<u>Mercedes-Benz FO 108F 2.4 V8</u>	<u>AUS</u> 5	<u>MAL</u> 3	<u>CHN</u> 3	<u>BHR</u> 5	<u>ESP</u> 12	M
<u>2014</u>	<u>Mercedes-AMG Petronas F1 Team</u>	<u>Mercedes F1 W05 Hybrid</u>	<u>Mercedes-Benz PU106A Hybrid 1.6 V6 t</u>	<u>AUS</u> Ret	<u>MAL</u> 1	<u>BHR</u> 1	<u>CHN</u> 1	<u>ESP</u> 1	M
<u>2015</u>	<u>Mercedes-AMG Petronas F1 Team</u>	<u>Mercedes F1 W06 Hybrid</u>	<u>Mercedes-Benz PU106B Hybrid 1.6 V6 t</u>	<u>AUS</u> 1	<u>MAL</u> 2	<u>CHN</u> 1	<u>BHR</u> 1	<i><u>ESP</u></i> 2	M
<u>2016</u>	<u>Mercedes-AMG Petronas F1 Team</u>	<u>Mercedes F1 W07 Hybrid</u>	<u>Mercedes-Benz PU106C Hybrid 1.6 V6 t</u>	<u>AUS</u> 2	<u>BHR</u> 3	<u>CHN</u> 7	<u>RUS</u> 2	<u>ESP</u> Ret	A
<u>2017</u>	<u>Mercedes-AMG Petronas Motorsport</u>	<u>Mercedes-AMG F1 W08</u>	<u>Mercedes-AMG M08 EQ Power+ 1.6 V6 t</u>	<u>AUS</u> 2	<u>CHN</u> 1	<i><u>BHR</u></i> 2	<u>RUS</u> 4	<i><u>ESP</u></i> 1	M
<u>2018</u>	<u>Mercedes-AMG Petronas Motorsport</u>	<u>Mercedes-AMG F1 W09</u>	<u>Mercedes-AMG M09 EQ Power+ 1.6 V6 t</u>	<u>AUS</u> 2	<u>BHR</u> 3	<u>CHN</u> 4	<u>AZE</u> 1	<u>ESP</u> 1	M
<u>2019</u>	<u>Mercedes-AMG Petronas Motorsport</u>	<u>Mercedes-AMG F1 W10</u>	<u>Mercedes-AMG M10 EQ Power+ 1.6 V6 t</u>	<u>AUS</u> 2	<u>BHR</u> 1	<u>CHN</u> 1	<u>AZE</u> 2	<i><u>ESP</u></i> 1	M
<u>2020</u>	<u>Mercedes-AMG Petronas F1 Team</u>	<u>Mercedes-AMG F1 W11</u>	<u>Mercedes-AMG M11 EQ Performance 1.6 V6 t</u>	<u>AUT</u> 4	<u>STY</u> 1	<u>HUN</u> 1	<u>GBR</u> 1	<i><u>70A</u></i> 2	I
<u>2021</u>	<u>Mercedes-AMG Petronas F1 Team</u>	<u>Mercedes-AMG F1 W12</u>	<u>Mercedes-AMG M12 E Performance 1.6 V6 t</u>	<u>BHR</u> 1	<i><u>EMI</u></i> 2	<u>POR</u> 1	<u>ESP</u> 1	<u>MON</u> 7	/
<u>2022</u>	<u>Mercedes-AMG Petronas F1 Team</u>	<u>Mercedes-AMG F1 W13</u>	<u>Mercedes-AMG M13 E Performance 1.6 V6 t</u>	<u>BHR</u> 3	<u>SAU</u> 10	<u>AUS</u> 4	<u>EMI</u> 13	<u>MIA</u> 6	I
<u>2023</u>	<u>Mercedes-AMG Petronas F1 Team</u>	<u>Mercedes-AMG F1 W14</u>	<u>Mercedes-AMG M14 E Performance 1.6 V6 t</u>	<u>BHR</u> 5	<u>SAU</u> 5	<u>AUS</u> 2	<u>AZE</u> 6 [‡]	<u>MIA</u> 6	A
<u>2024</u>	<u>Mercedes-AMG Petronas F1 Team</u>	<u>Mercedes-AMG F1 W15</u>	<u>Mercedes-AMG M15 E Performance 1.6 V6 t</u>	<u>BHR</u> 7	<u>SAU</u> 9	<u>AUS</u> Ret	<u>JPN</u> 9	<i><u>CHN</u></i> 9 ²	I
Sources: ^[431]									

[†] Did not finish, but was classified as he had completed more than 90% of the race distance.

[‡] Half points awarded as less than 75% of race distance was completed.

* Season still in progress.

Formula One records

Hamilton debuted at the 2007 Australian Grand Prix becoming the first black driver in Formula One.^[438]^[439] He has set several records throughout his career. Hamilton has the most career wins,^[440]^[441] most pole positions,^[442]^[443] most podium finishes,^[444]^[445] most career points,^[446] and most laps led,^[447] among other records. When Hamilton won the 2008 F1 World Championship, after finishing fifth in the Brazilian Grand Prix, he had become the youngest driver ever

to win the championship at age 23 years and 301 days,^{[448][449]} a triumph that was beaten by Sebastian Vettel in 2010.^{[450][451]}

Honours and achievements

Formula One

- Formula One World Drivers' Championship: 2008, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020^{[452][453][454]}
- DHL Fastest Lap Award: 2014, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2020^{[455][456][457]}
- FIA Pole Trophy: 2015, 2016, and 2017^[458]
- Hawthorn Memorial Trophy: 2007, 2008, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2023^{[459][460][461][462][463][464]}
- Lorenzo Bandini Trophy: 2009^[465]

Other awards

Throughout his career, Hamilton has received several awards and honours. He won the Laureus Breakthrough of the Year Award in 2008^[466] and the Sportsman of the Year Award in 2020.^[467] Hamilton also won Pride of Britain Awards (2007),^[468] Best Driver ESPY Award (2017; 2021),^{[469][470]} BBC Sports Personality of the Year Award (2014; 2020),^{[471][472]} L'Équipe Champion of Champions (2020),^[473] and Gazzetta World Sportsman of the Year (2018; 2020),^{[474][475]} among others prizes and awards. He was elected FIA Personality of the Year four times (2014; 2018; 2020; 2021),^{[476][477][478][479]} and was inducted to FIA Hall of Fame in 2017.^[480]

Orders and special awards

- UK
 - Member of the Order of the British Empire (2008)^[481]
 - Knight Bachelor (2020)^[365]
- Grenada
 - Honorary Award, Grenada (2008)^{[482][483]}

Recognition

- A portrait of Hamilton by photographer Dario Mitidieri is held in the collection of the National Portrait Gallery, London.^[484]
- The Hamilton Straight, Silverstone Circuit.^[485]

Notes

- Hamilton was the first reigning world champion to decline to run the No. 1, deciding to stay with his old karting No. 44 from 2014.^[4] He briefly ran the number 1 on the nose of his car in practice for the 2018 and 2019 Abu Dhabi Grands Prix after winning his fifth and sixth World Championships respectively, but was still officially entered under the number 44 and that figure still appeared on the engine cover.^[5]
- These include former-Jordan team boss Eddie Jordan,^[167] and Mercedes team boss Toto Wolff,^[168] ex-drivers Eddie Irvine,^[169] Johnny Herbert,^[170] Niki Lauda,^[171] Damon Hill,^[172] David Coulthard,^[173] and John Watson,^[174] rivals Nico Rosberg,^[175] Sebastian Vettel,^[176] and Max Verstappen,^[177] Formula E driver Sam Bird,^[178] and ex-commentator Murray Walker.^[179]

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External links

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