

Data Bootcamp Final Project

Data Analysis of NBA Statistics

Topics Covered:

- #### Historical Trends
- #### Relationships Between Statistics/Correlation with Win Shares
- #### A look into Undervalued, Underplayed, and Strong Performing Players
- #### Valuation Model and Evaluating Players

Summary:

The purpose of this project is to analyze different NBA statistics to better understand players' values. We downloaded our data from Kaggle at the links below, which were originally extracted from ESPN. This data came out very raw, and we filtered our data for 2017, eliminated duplicates due to trades and salary changes and using the most updated version of each player. We also deleted two empty columns to allow ourselves to more readily manipulate the data. Additionally, we filtered for different positions, minutes, and salaries to look even more closely at the numbers and better compare players.

Before conducting our player analysis, we were curious to see how the NBA has changed over time. We decided to examine how points per season has changed with respect to time and increase of 3-point shots attempted. People tend to believe there is more "isolation" plays now than before, when a player attempts to take on his defender one-on-one, so to assess the validity of this claim we took the 97th percentile Usage Rating for each year and observed how it changed. Contrarily, we saw that the usage rates are actually about the same, suggesting this hypothesis was incorrect.

Next, we examined how different key statistics correlate to win shares. We used this stat because we believe that at the end of the day, a player's value is determined by how he influences his team and delivers them wins. However, players on the same team or with fewer minutes played will inherently have a lower value of win shares, so we therefore used the correlation coefficients of the key statistics to determine the values of players, using the numbers to weigh the importance of each stat since win shares alone can be biased.

Throughout the project, we adjusted our dataframes to only include players who played an average of at least 2 minutes per game, as we saw players who played minimal minutes sometimes saw extremely high usage rates and efficiency ratings if they happened to accumulate stats during these minutes. We believe that this increased the reliability of our results by eliminating those numbers which were skewed. In analyzing player performances, we took into account the minutes played and salaries earned by each player to find the players who may be undervalued or deserve more minutes.

Finally, we created a valuation model for evaluating players, using our correlation coefficients of the key statistics vs. win shares. We multiplied each statistic by their coefficient and divided it by the number of stats we used, in order to get our own version of the wins they bring their team using the average of multiple statistics. This method proved to be effective, as the top players were the all-stars, with the highest valued player also being named Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the NBA for both 2016 and 2017. After looking at the top 20 valued players, we examined the top players at each position and at a low salary mark for each position as well. We believe our findings would be useful for an NBA GM in deciding which players to target and carrying out different transactions.

Team: James Haag and David Chou

Sources:

https://www.kaggle.com/drgilermo/nba-players-stats#Seasons_Stats.csv

[https://www.kaggle.com/whitefero/nba-player-salary-19902017#Player%20-%20Salaries%20per%20Year%20\(1990%20-%202017\).xlsx](https://www.kaggle.com/whitefero/nba-player-salary-19902017#Player%20-%20Salaries%20per%20Year%20(1990%20-%202017).xlsx).

```
In [1]: %matplotlib inline
import pandas as pd
pd.set_option('display.max_columns', 60)
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import datetime as dt
import os
import requests, io
import zipfile as zf
import shutil
import numpy as np
import statsmodels.formula.api as smf
from sklearn.linear_model import LinearRegression as reg
from patsy import dmatrices
from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split
from sklearn.model_selection import cross_val_score
from sklearn.ensemble import RandomForestRegressor as rf
from sklearn.neighbors import KNeighborsRegressor as knn
plt.style.use('seaborn')
```

```
In [2]: stats = pd.read_csv('Seasons_Stats.csv')
stats = stats.drop(columns = ['blank1', 'blank2', 'Unnamed: 0']).
```

```
In [3]: salary = pd.read_excel("nbaSals.xlsx", sheetname = 'Player Salaries').
salary['Year'] = salary['Season End'] # adjust for differences in reporting of year
salary.drop(['Register Value', 'Season Start',
             'Season End', 'Full Team Name'], axis=1, inplace=True)
# drop unneeded columns
salary.columns = ['Player', 'Salary', 'Tm', 'Year'] # rename columns to match for eventual merge
salary17 = salary.loc[salary['Year'] == 2017].
# gathering the 2017 salary data for use in valuing different players

//anaconda3/lib/python3.7/site-packages/pandas/util/_decorators.py:1
88: FutureWarning: The `sheetname` keyword is deprecated, use `sheet
_name` instead
    return func(*args, **kwargs).
```

```
In [4]: stats17 = stats.loc[stats['Year'] == 2017].
salary17['Year'] = salary17['Year'].astype(float)
# We first had to change salary17's years to float values to merge the
two datasets
stats17 = stats17.merge(salary17[['Player', 'Salary']], on='Player', how=
'inner').
stats17 = stats17.drop_duplicates(subset = 'Player', keep = 'first').
# Players who were traded or signed a new salary were counted multiple
times. This accounts for that and uses their
# most recent values
```

//anaconda3/lib/python3.7/site-packages/ipykernel_launcher.py:2: Set
tingWithCopyWarning:
A value is trying to be set on a copy of a slice from a DataFrame.
Try using .loc[row_indexer,col_indexer] = value instead

See the caveats in the documentation: <http://pandas.pydata.org/pandas-docs/stable/indexing.html#indexing-view-versus-copy>

```

In [5]: stats82gms = stats.loc[stats['Year'] > 1967].
#We will use this dataframe to accurately compare pt spreads over year
s, as there were now 82 games per year
stats3p = stats.loc[stats['Year'] > 1979].
#It was not until after 1979 when the 3 point line was introduced in t
he NBA.
#This will be used in our regression to find the relationship between
3 pointers attempted and points scored
statsUSG = stats.loc[stats['Year'] > 1977].
#When the usage percentages started being recorded
statsBPM = stats.loc[stats['Year'] > 1974].
#When the Box Plus Minus began being recorded
statsPG = stats.loc[stats['Pos'] == 'PG'].
stats17PG = stats17.loc[stats17['Pos'] == 'PG'].
statsSG = stats.loc[stats['Pos'] == 'SG'].
stats17SG = stats17.loc[stats17['Pos'] == 'SG'].
statsSF = stats.loc[stats['Pos'] == 'SF'].
stats17SF = stats17.loc[stats17['Pos'] == 'SF'].
statsPF = stats.loc[stats['Pos'] == 'PF'].
stats17PF = stats17.loc[stats17['Pos'] == 'PF'].
statsC = stats.loc[stats['Pos'] == 'C'].
stats17C = stats17.loc[stats17['Pos'] == 'C'].
#created datasets for each positon, first including all years, then on
ly including 2017
stats16 = stats.loc[stats['Year'] == 2016].

```

Abbreviation Key:

Year: Season

Player: name

Pos: Position

Age: Age

Tm: Team

G: Games

GS: Games Started

MP: Minutes Played

PER: Player Efficiency Rating

TS%: True Shooting %

3PAr: 3-Point Attempt Rate

FTr: Free Throw Rate

ORB%: Offensive Rebound Percentage

DRB%: Defensive Rebound Percentage

TRB%: Total Rebound Percentage

AST%: Assist Percentage

STL%: Steal Percentage

BLK%: Block Percentage

TOV%: Turnover Percentage

USG%: Usage Percentage
OWS: Offensive Win Shares
DWS: Defensive Win Shares
WS: Win Shares
WS/48: Win Shares Per 48 Minutes
OBPM: Offensive Box Plus/Minus
DBPM: Defensive Box Plus/Minus
BPM: Box Plus/Minus
VORP: Value Over Replacement
FG: Field Goals
FGA: Field Goal Attempts
FG%: Field Goal Percentage
3P: 3-Point Field Goals
3PA: 3-Point Field Goal Attempts
3P%: 3-Point Field Goal Percentage
2P: 2-Point Field Goals
2PA: 2-Point Field Goal Attempts
2P%: 2-Point Field Goal Percentage
eFG%: Effective Field Goal Percentage
FT: Free Throws
FTA: Free Throw Attempts
FT%: Free Throw Percentage
ORB: Offensive Rebounds
DRB: Defensive Rebounds
TRB: Total Rebounds
AST: Assists
STL: Steals
BLK: Blocks
TOV: Turnovers
PF: Personal Fouls
PTS: Points

Looking into Historical League Trends

To better understand the NBA as whole, we examined historical trends to see how the league has changed over time. We looked at points scored, its association with 3 pointers attempted, and the spread of player roles over time measured by examining the 97th percentile of Usage Rate for players in the league for each year

```

In [6]: sumpts = stats82gms.groupby(['Year']).['PTS'].sum().reset_index(.)

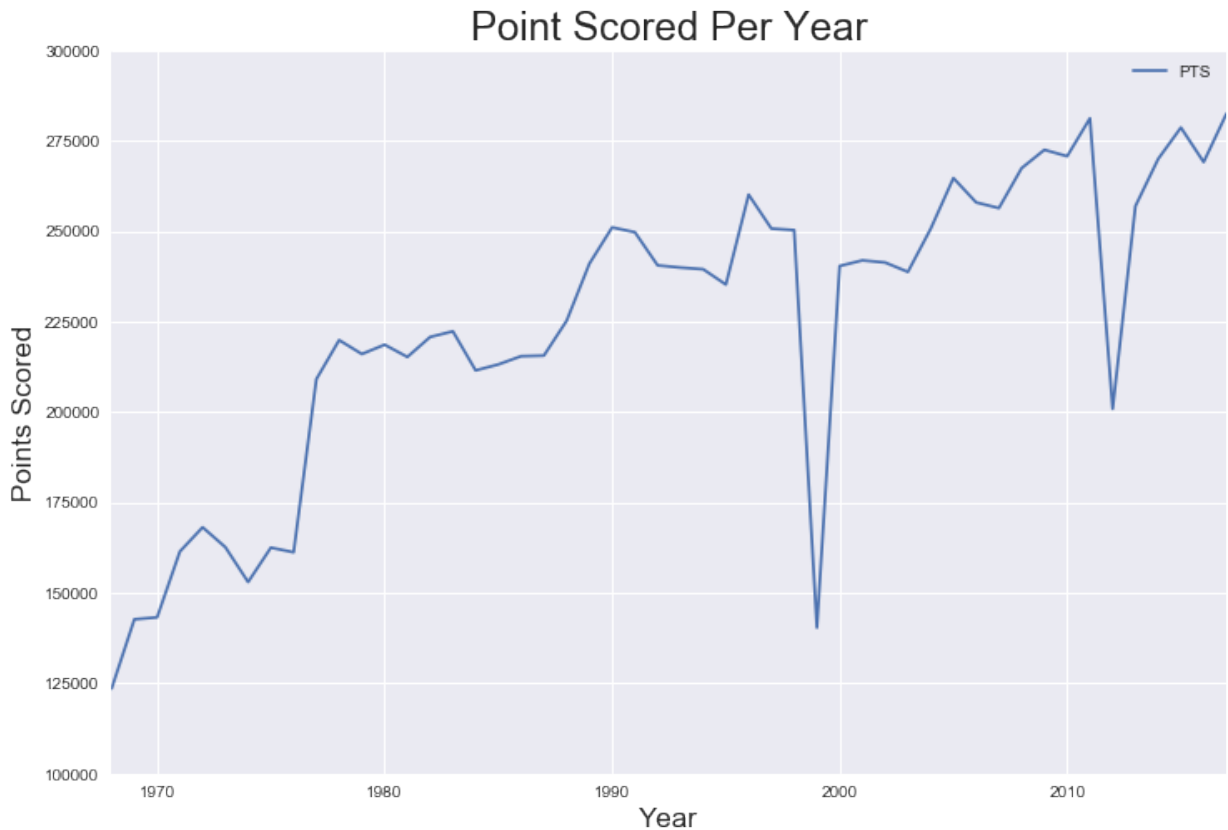
fig,ax = plt.subplots()
sumpts.plot(x='Year',y='PTS',figsize = (12,8), ax=ax)
ax.set_ylim(100000,300000)
ax.set_title('Point Scored Per Year',size=24)
ax.set_xlabel('Year',size = 17)
ax.set_ylabel('Points Scored',size = 17)

```

```

Out[6]: Text(0, 0.5, 'Points Scored')

```



NOTES: Besides in 1999 and 2012, you can see an overall increase in points over time since the incorporation of the 82 game season in the 1967-1968 season. The drastic declines in 1999 and 2012 were due to lockouts, where players refused to play and only ended up playing 50 and 66 games respectively. We were curious to see if the increase in points per season had to do with the installation of a three point line. Therefore, we found the numbers for three pointers attempted and ran a regression between points and three pointers attempted. Additionally, in 1995, the league decided to move the three point line closer, likely causing the point total to increase as a result, before dmoving it farther from the basket in 1998, leading to a slight decrease in total points.

```

In [7]: threes = stats3p.groupby(['Year'])['3PA'].sum().reset_index()

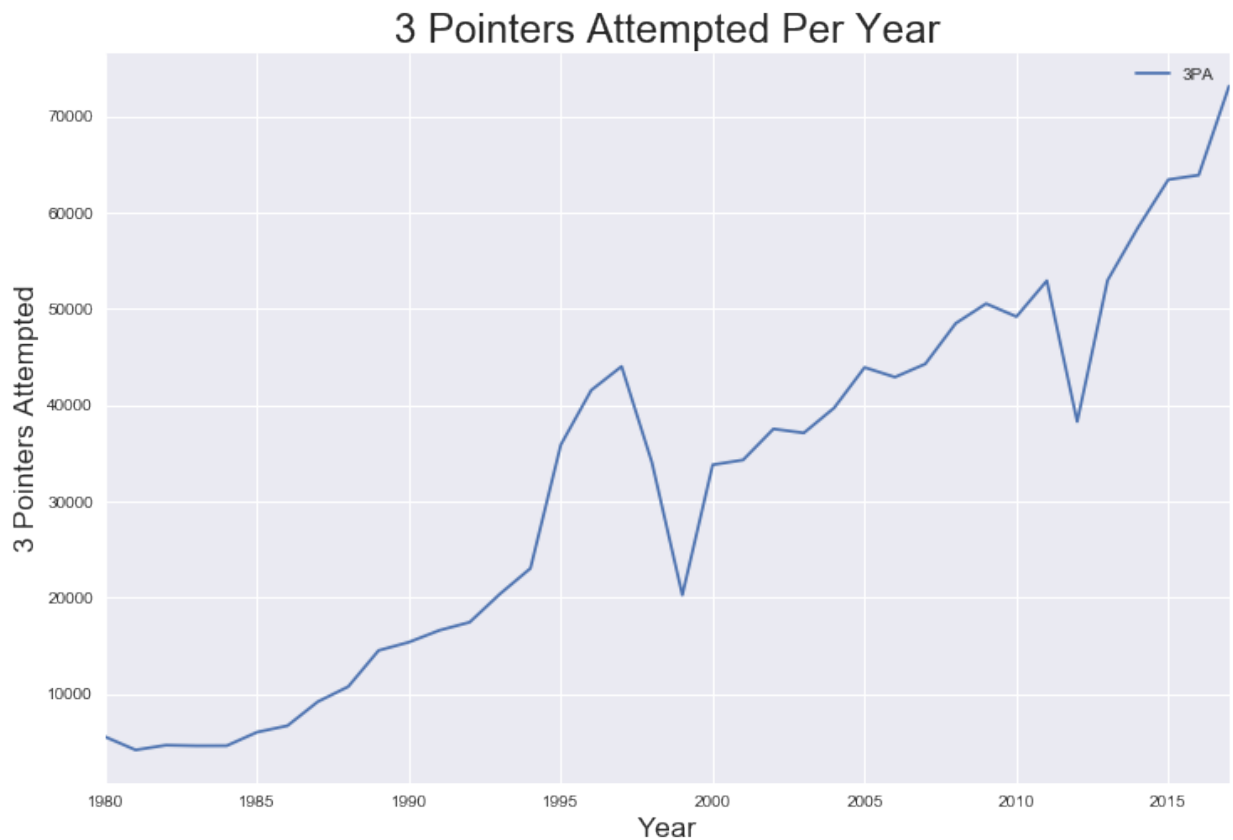
fig,ax = plt.subplots()
threes.plot(x='Year',y='3PA',figsize = (12,8), ax=ax)
#ax.set_ylim(100000,300000)
ax.set_title('3 Pointers Attempted Per Year',size=24)
ax.set_xlabel('Year',size = 17)
ax.set_ylabel('3 Pointers Attempted',size = 17)

```

```

Out[7]: Text(0, 0.5, '3 Pointers Attempted')

```



```

In [8]: pts_and_threes = sumpts.merge(threes)
pts_and_threes.columns = [['Year','PTS','ThreesAttempted']]
pts_to_threes = smf.ols('PTS ~ ThreesAttempted',data=pts_and_threes).f
it(.)

```

```

In [9]: pts_to_threes.rsquared

```

```

Out[9]: 0.5157084644243529

```

```

In [10]: print(pts_to_threes.summary())

```

```

OLS Regression Results
=====
Dep. Variable: PTS R-squared: 0.516
Model: OLS Adj. R-squared: 0.502
Method: Least Squares F-statistic: 38.34
Date: Thu, 19 Dec 2019 Prob (F-statistic): 3.86e-07
Time: 19:02:40 Log-Likelihood: -428.06
No. Observations: 38 AIC: 860.1
Df Residuals: 36 BIC: 863.4
Df Model: 1
Covariance Type: nonrobust
=====
coef std err t P>|t| [0.025 0.975]
-----
Intercept 2.104e+05 6007.836 35.020 0.000 1.98e+05 2.23e+05
ThreesAttempted 1.0003 0.162 6.192 0.000 0.673 1.328
=====
Omnibus: 51.723 Durbin-Watson: 1.828
Prob(Omnibus): 0.000 Jarque-Bera (JB): 291.294
Skew: -3.129 Prob(JB): 5.58e-64
Kurtosis: 15.034 Cond. No. 7.10e+04
=====

```

Warnings:

```

[1] Standard Errors assume that the covariance matrix of the errors
is correctly specified.
[2] The condition number is large, 7.1e+04. This might indicate that
there are
strong multicollinearity or other numerical problems.

```

```
In [11]: pts_and_threes['yhat'] = pts_to_threes.predict()
```

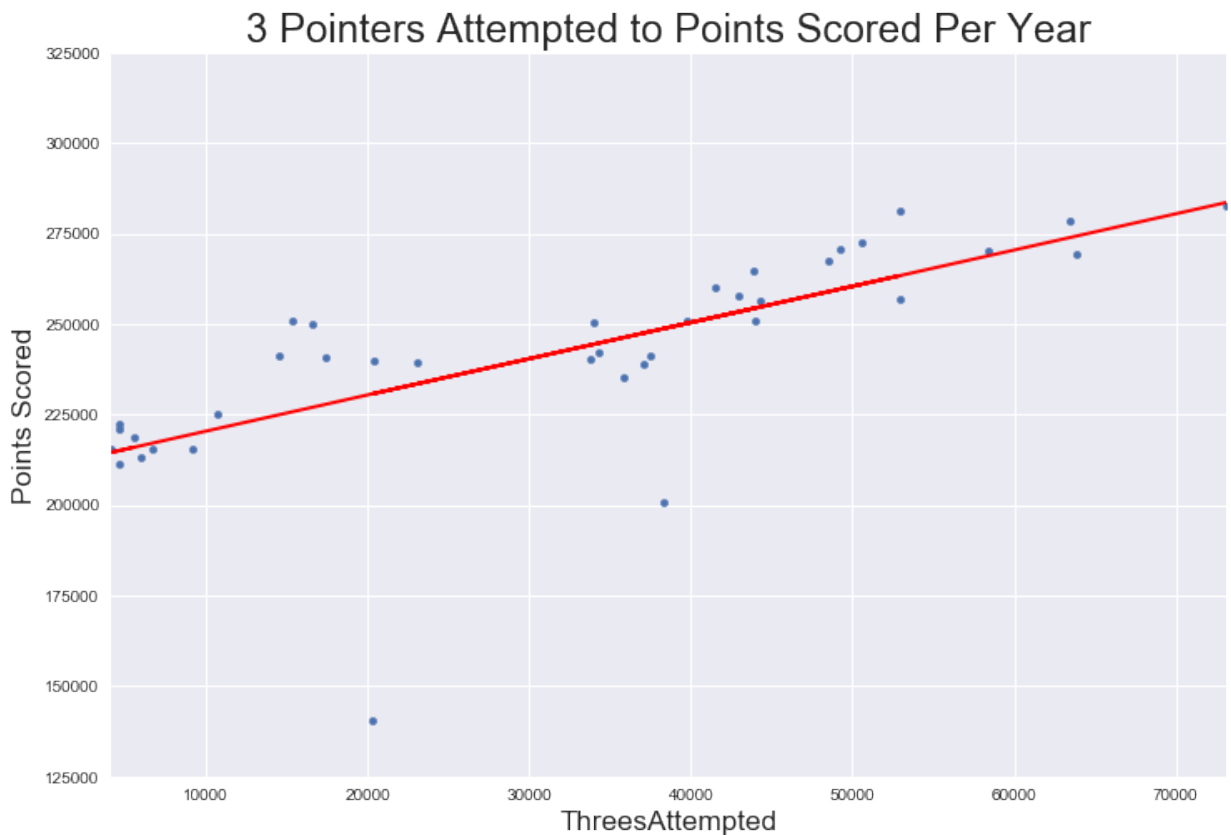


```

In [12]: fig,ax = plt.subplots()
pts_and_threes.plot.scatter(y='PTS',x='ThreesAttempted',ax=ax,alpha=1,
figsize = (12,8)).
ax.set_ylim(125000,325000).
ax.set_title('3 Pointers Attempted to Points Scored Per Year',size=24).
ax.set_xlabel('3 Pointers Attempted',size = 17).
ax.set_ylabel('Points Scored',size = 17).
pts_and_threes.set_index('ThreesAttempted')['yhat'].plot(ax=ax,color='
red',lw=2,legend=False).

```

Out[12]: <matplotlib.axes._subplots.AxesSubplot at 0x1a1b5c24e0>



NOTES: There is a positive correlation between three pointers attempted and points scored. This shows that the extra point earned makes up for the lower probability of success, and that shooting more three pointers will potentially lead to scoring more points.

```

In [13]: statsUSG = statsUSG.sort_values('USG%', ascending = False)
USG = (statsBPM.loc[statsBPM['USG%'] >= statsBPM['USG%'].quantile(0.97)
].[statsBPM['MP'] > 164].
      [['Year', 'USG%', 'BPM']]).
# Adjust Minutes Played because some players barely played and saw a high usage rate as a result.
USG = USG.groupby(['Year'])['USG%'].min().reset_index()
# By taking the minimum of the dataframe for each year, we are getting the true 97th percentile number.
# We could not simply do == statsBPM['USG%'].quantile(0.97) because the value was not always exactly the 97th percentile cut off, but by using the minimum we are getting the value that is the 97th percentile of the set.
fig,ax = plt.subplots()
USG.plot(x = 'Year', y = 'USG%',ax=ax, figsize = (12,8)).
ax.set_ylim(25,35).
ax.set_title('Top 3% Usage Percentile Per Year',size=24).
ax.set_xlabel('Year',size = 17).
ax.set_ylabel('Top 3% Usage Percentage',size = 17).

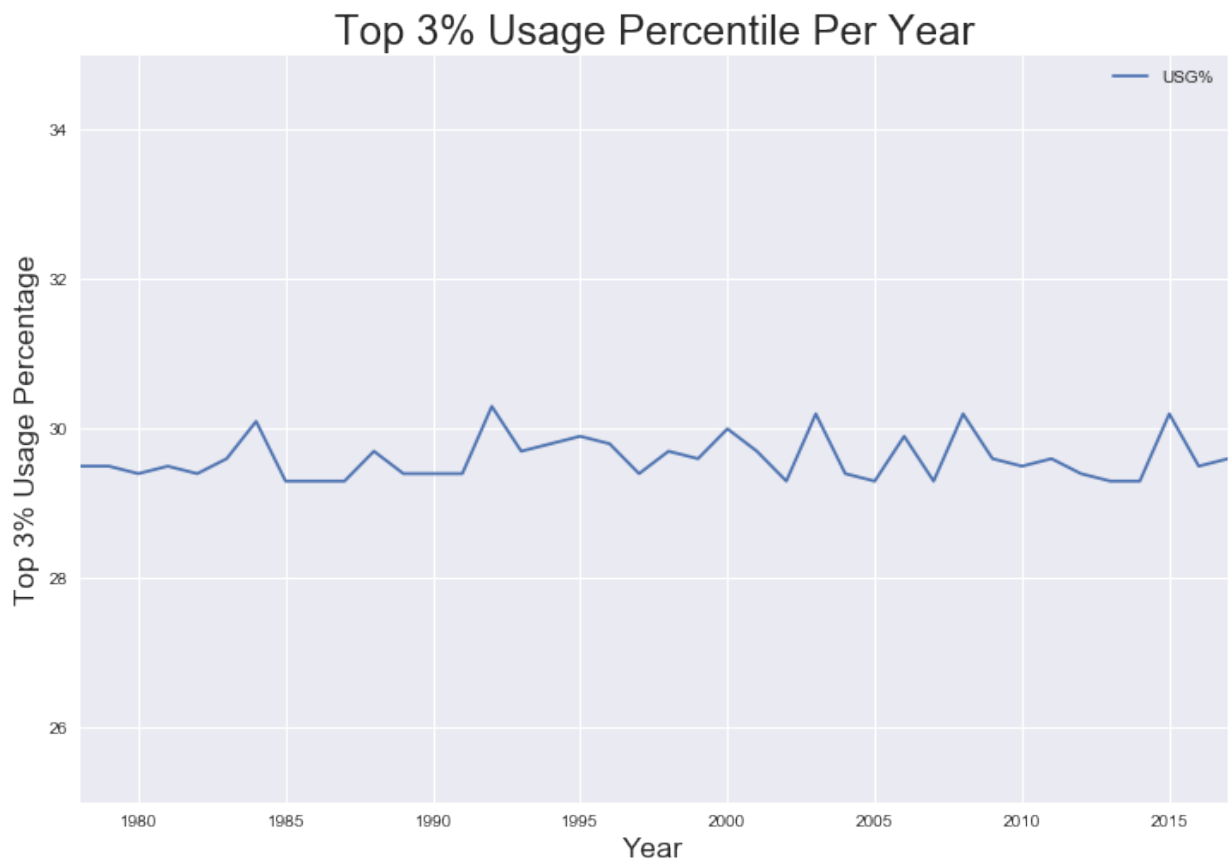
```

//anaconda3/lib/python3.7/site-packages/ipykernel_launcher.py:2: Use rWarning: Boolean Series key will be reindexed to match DataFrame in dex.

```

Out[13]: Text(0, 0.5, 'Top 3% Usage Percentage')

```



NOTES: We found this data extremely interesting. It is a popularly thought idea that the usage of the top players has grown over the years, as we often see players have "isolation" plays called for them where they try to beat the defender on their own. However, in reality the usage has actually not changed much over time and has remained relatively constant.

Relationships Between Key Statistics

In this section, we will look into the key statistics and how they correlate with one another. We will look at USG% to BPM, PER to BPM, BPM to Win Share, PER to Win Share, Assists to Win Share, Points to Win Share, Rebound to Win Share, Steals to Win Share, and Blocks to Win Share, comparing the correlations we find to determine which statistics make the largest positive impact on a player's team wins.

USG% to BPM

```
In [14]: USGvBPM = stats17.loc[stats17['MP'] > 164][['Player', 'BPM', 'USG%']].  
USGvBPM.columns = [['Player', 'BPM', 'USG']].  
USG_to_BPM = smf.ols('BPM ~ USG', data=USGvBPM).fit()
```

```
In [15]: USG_to_BPM.rsquared
```

```
Out[15]: 0.13733100475378945
```

```
In [16]: print(USG_to_BPM.summary())
```

```

OLS Regression Results
=====
Dep. Variable:          BPM    R-squared:
0.137
Model:                  OLS    Adj. R-squared:
0.135
Method:                 Least Squares    F-statistic:
64.63
Date:                   Thu, 19 Dec 2019    Prob (F-statistic):
9.96e-15
Time:                   19:02:46    Log-Likelihood:
-1000.2
No. Observations:       408    AIC:
2004.
Df Residuals:           406    BIC:
2012.
Df Model:                1
Covariance Type:        nonrobust
=====
                        coef    std err          t      P>|t|      [0.025
0.975].
-----
Intercept             -4.9690      0.523     -9.505      0.000     -5.997
-3.941
USG                   0.2146      0.027      8.039      0.000      0.162
0.267
=====
Omnibus:               16.927    Durbin-Watson:
1.951
Prob(Omnibus):         0.000    Jarque-Bera (JB):
19.550
Skew:                  0.418    Prob(JB):
5.68e-05
Kurtosis:              3.671    Cond. No.
73.7
=====

```

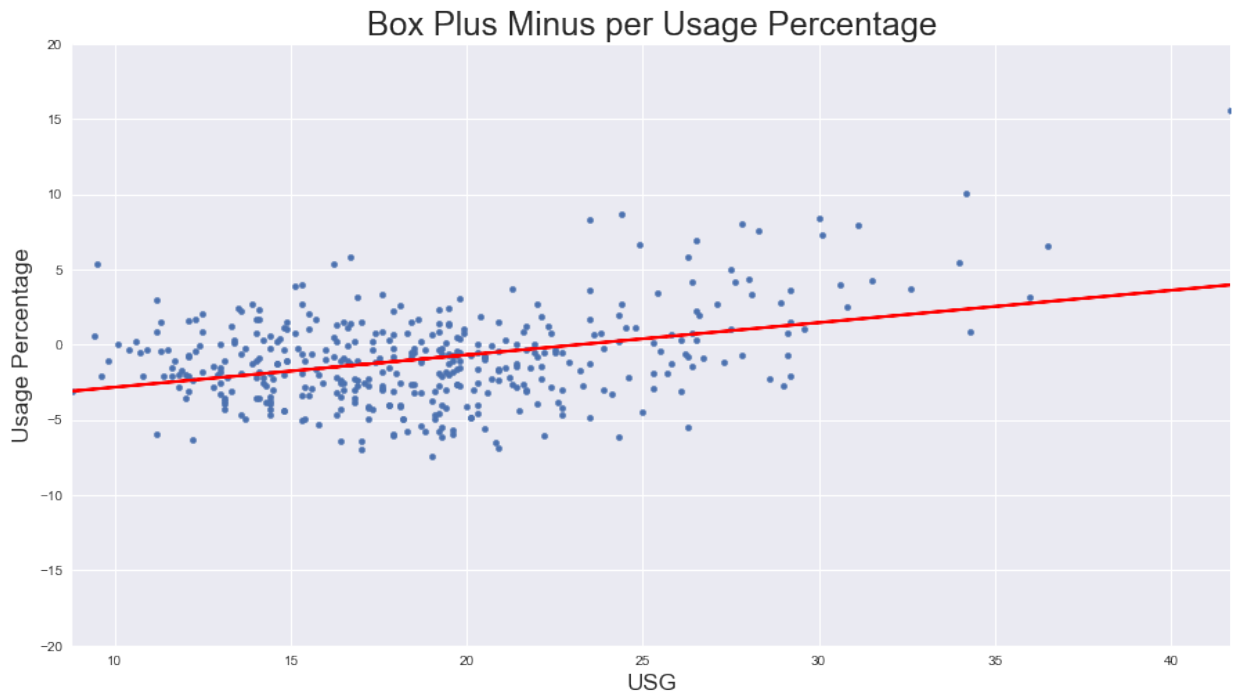
Warnings:

[1] Standard Errors assume that the covariance matrix of the errors is correctly specified.

```
In [17]: USGvBPM['yhat'] = USG_to_BPM.predict(.
```

```
In [18]: fig,ax = plt.subplots()
USGvBPM.plot.scatter(y='BPM',x='USG',ax=ax,alpha=1,figsize=(15,8)).
ax.set_xlim(5,45).
ax.set_ylim(-20,20).
ax.set_title('Box Plus Minus per Usage Percentage',size=24).
ax.set_xlabel('Box Plus Minus',size=17).
ax.set_ylabel('Usage Percentage',size=17).
USGvBPM.set_index('USG')['yhat'].plot(ax=ax,color='red',lw=2,legend=False).
```

```
Out[18]: <matplotlib.axes._subplots.AxesSubplot at 0x1a1b49ef60>
```



NOTES: We were very curious to see whether the amount a player was used (Usage Percentage) would correlate to whether or not they had a positive impact on the score of the game for their team (Box Plus Minus). We hypothesized that the more a player was used, the higher their BPM would be, as the best players are usually the ones with the highest usage percentage. However, there is also the argument that a player who shoots too much or is used too much may negatively affect their team as well, and the legitimacy of this argument is backed up by the lower correlation between the two variables. However, there was a slight positive correlation, so the higher the usage, the more likely a player was to have a positive BPM.

PER to BPM

```
In [19]: PERvBPM = stats17.loc[stats17['MP'] > 164][['Player','BPM','PER']].
PER_to_BPM = smf.ols('BPM ~ PER',data=PERvBPM).fit().
```

In [20]: PER_to_BPM.rsquared

Out[20]: 0.6158725222128675

In [21]: print(PER_to_BPM.summary()).

```

OLS Regression Results
=====
Dep. Variable:          BPM      R-squared:
0.616
Model:                  OLS      Adj. R-squared:
0.615
Method:                 Least Squares      F-statistic:
650.9
Date:                  Thu, 19 Dec 2019      Prob (F-statistic):
2.24e-86
Time:                  19:02:50      Log-Likelihood:
-835.15
No. Observations:      408      AIC:
1674.
Df Residuals:          406      BIC:
1682.
Df Model:               1
Covariance Type:       nonrobust
=====
=====
              coef      std err          t      P>|t|      [0.025
0.975]
-----
Intercept      -7.7516      0.284     -27.340      0.000     -8.309
-7.194
PER              0.4937      0.019     25.514      0.000      0.456
0.532
=====
=====
Omnibus:          9.896      Durbin-Watson:
1.822
Prob(Omnibus):    0.007      Jarque-Bera (JB):
17.597
Skew:             0.043      Prob(JB):
0.000151
Kurtosis:         4.014      Cond. No.
44.9
=====
=====
```

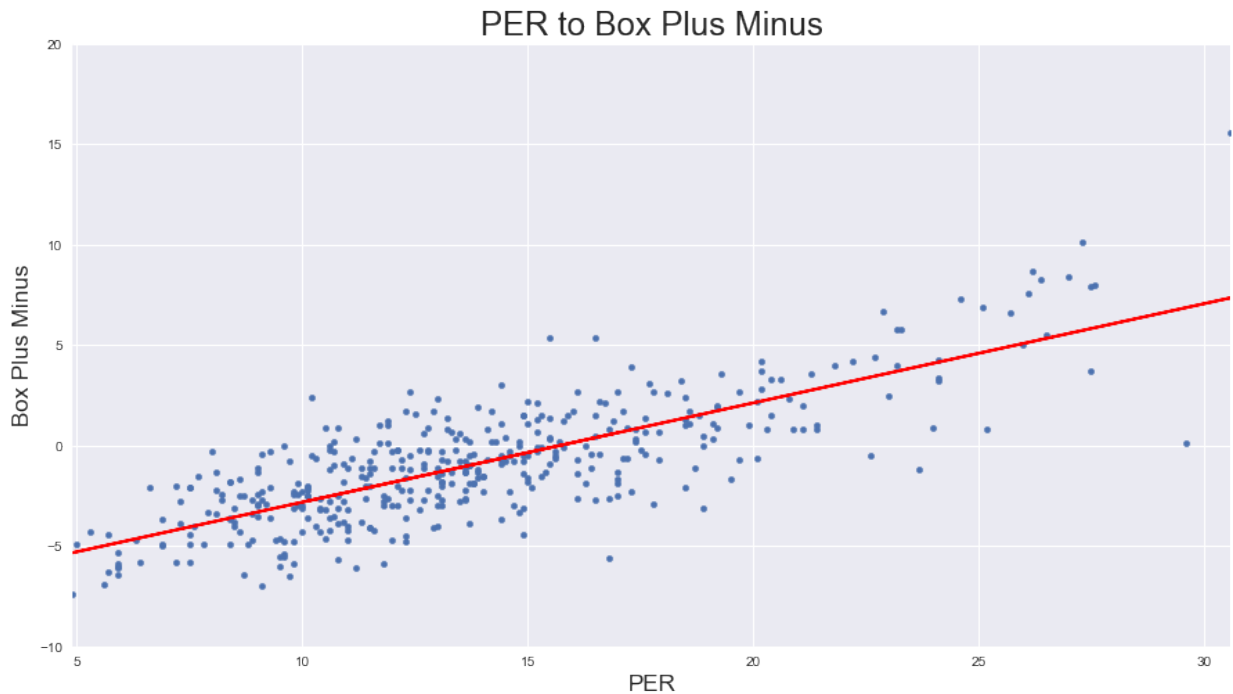
Warnings:

[1] Standard Errors assume that the covariance matrix of the errors is correctly specified.

```
In [22]: PERvBPM['yhat'] = PER_to_BPM.predict(.
```

```
In [23]: fig,ax = plt.subplots(.)
PERvBPM.plot.scatter(y='BPM',x='PER',ax=ax,alpha=1,figsize = (15,8)).
ax.set_ylim(-10,20).
ax.set_title('PER to Box Plus Minus',size=24).
ax.set_ylabel('Box Plus Minus',size = 17).
ax.set_xlabel('Player Efficiency Rating',size = 17).
PERvBPM.set_index('PER')['yhat'].plot(ax=ax,color='red',lw=2,legend=F
alse).
```

```
Out[23]: <matplotlib.axes._subplots.AxesSubplot at 0x1a1b5e12e8>
```



NOTES: As expected, we found there to be a strong positive correlation between PER and BPM. This makes sense as a player with an "efficient" rating should be having a positive impact on their team. More interesting perhaps is our next calculations where we will be seeing how each statistic correlates to wins.

BPM to Win Share

```
In [24]: BPMvWS = stats17.loc[stats17['MP'] > 164][['Player','BPM','WS']].
BPM_to_WS = smf.ols('WS ~ BPM',data=BPMvWS).fit(.
```

```
In [25]: BPM_to_WS.rsquared
```

```
Out[25]: 0.7210500149676784
```

```
In [26]: print(BPM_to_WS.summary()).
```

```

                                OLS Regression Results
=====
Dep. Variable:                  WS      R-squared:
0.721
Model:                          OLS      Adj. R-squared:
0.720
Method:                        Least Squares      F-statistic:
1049.
Date:                          Thu, 19 Dec 2019      Prob (F-statistic):
1.29e-114
Time:                          19:02:53      Log-Likelihood:
-757.70
No. Observations:              408      AIC:
1519.
Df Residuals:                  406      BIC:
1527.
Df Model:                      1
Covariance Type:               nonrobust
=====
                                coef      std err          t      P>|t|      [0.025
0.975]
-----
Intercept      3.7873      0.080      47.113      0.000      3.629
3.945
BPM            0.8242      0.025      32.395      0.000      0.774
0.874
=====
Omnibus:                27.584      Durbin-Watson:
1.911
Prob(Omnibus):          0.000      Jarque-Bera (JB):
57.213
Skew:                  0.375      Prob(JB):
3.77e-13
Kurtosis:              4.674      Cond. No.
3.33
=====
```

Warnings:

```
[1] Standard Errors assume that the covariance matrix of the errors
is correctly specified.
```

```
In [27]: BPMvWS['yhat'] = BPM_to_WS.predict().
```



```

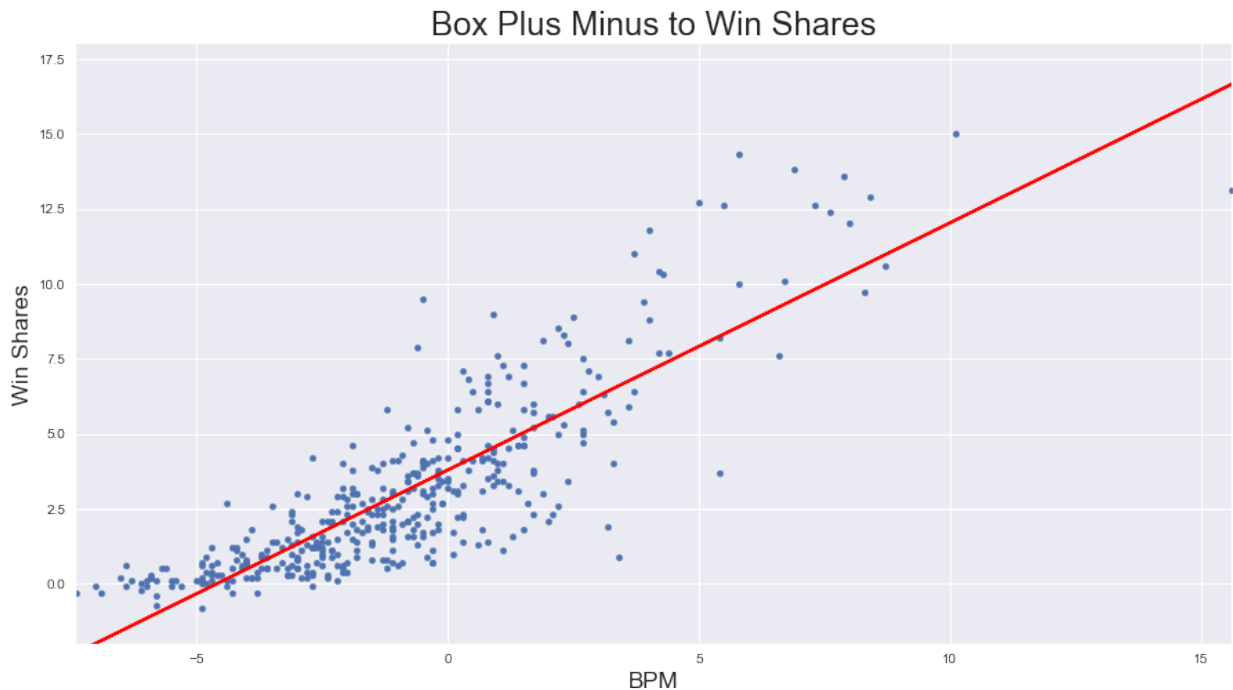
In [28]: fig,ax = plt.subplots()
BPMvWS.plot.scatter(y='WS',x='BPM',ax=ax,alpha=1,figsize=(15,8))
ax.set_ylim(-2,18)
ax.set_title('Box Plus Minus to Win Shares',size=24)
ax.set_ylabel('Win Shares',size=17)
ax.set_xlabel('Box Plus Minus',size=17)
BPMvWS.set_index('BPM')['yhat'].plot(ax=ax,color='red',lw=2,legend=False)

```

```

Out[28]: <matplotlib.axes._subplots.AxesSubplot at 0x1a1b403160>

```



NOTES: There is a very strong correlation between Bow Plus Minus and Win Shares. This shows that the more positive the point differential while a player is on the court, the more wins he will add for his team. This further shows the importance of the statistic BPM, as it has a high correlation with wins, which at the end of the day is what counts in the NBA.

PER to Win Share

```

In [29]: PERvWS = stats17.loc[stats17['MP'] > 164][['Player','PER','WS']].
PER_to_WS = smf.ols('WS ~ PER',data=PERvWS).fit()

```

```

In [30]: PER_to_WS.rsquared

```

```

Out[30]: 0.6316851696260053

```

```
In [31]: print(PER_to_WS.summary()).
```

```

                                OLS Regression Results
=====
Dep. Variable:                  WS      R-squared:
0.632
Model:                          OLS      Adj. R-squared:
0.631
Method:                        Least Squares      F-statistic:
696.3
Date:                          Thu, 19 Dec 2019      Prob (F-statistic):
4.36e-90
Time:                          19:02:58      Log-Likelihood:
-814.40
No. Observations:              408      AIC:
1633.
Df Residuals:                  406      BIC:
1641.
Df Model:                      1
Covariance Type:              nonrobust
=====
                                coef      std err          t      P>|t|      [0.025
0.975]
-----
Intercept      -3.6864      0.269      -13.681      0.000      -4.216
-3.157
PER             0.4853      0.018      26.388      0.000      0.449
0.521
=====
Omnibus:              34.900      Durbin-Watson:
2.006
Prob(Omnibus):        0.000      Jarque-Bera (JB):
123.049
Skew:                -0.272      Prob(JB):
1.91e-27
Kurtosis:             5.635      Cond. No.
44.9
=====
```

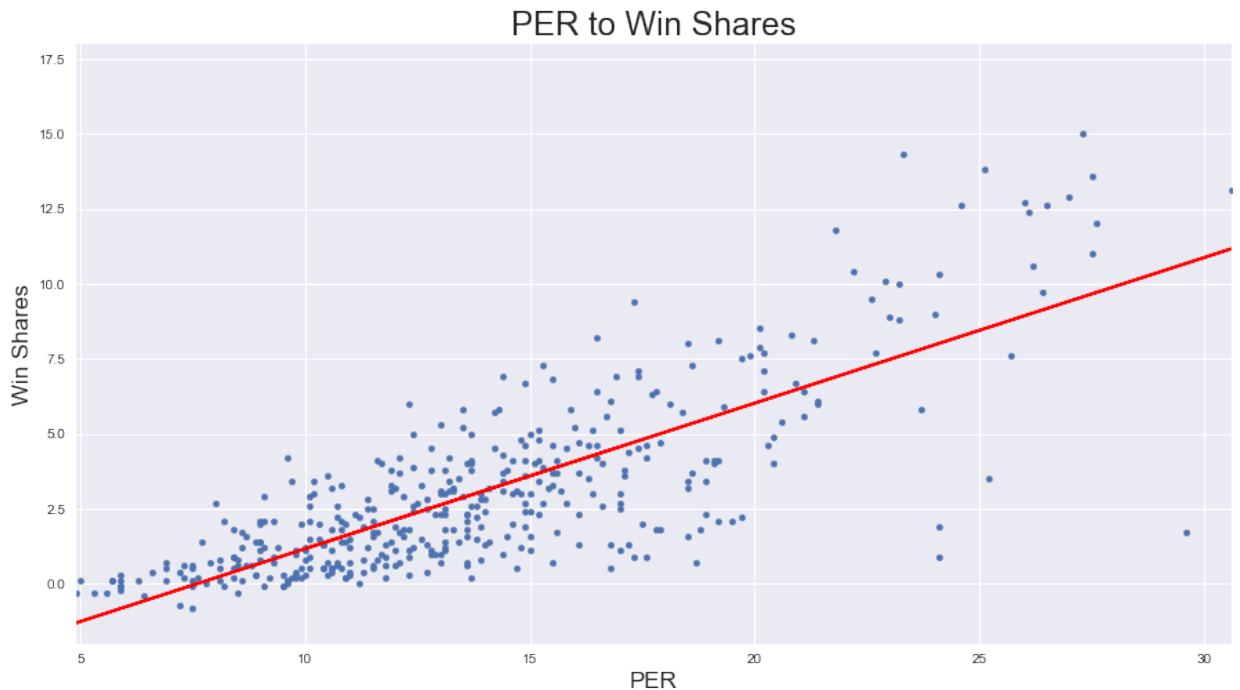
Warnings:

```
[1] Standard Errors assume that the covariance matrix of the errors
is correctly specified.
```

```
In [32]: PERvWS['yhat'] = PER_to_WS.predict().
```

```
In [33]: fig,ax = plt.subplots()
PERvWS.plot.scatter(y='WS',x='PER',ax=ax,alpha=1,figsize=(15,8))
ax.set_ylim(-2,18)
ax.set_title('PER to Win Shares',size=24)
ax.set_ylabel('Win Shares',size=17)
ax.set_xlabel('Player Efficiency Rating',size=17)
PERvWS.set_index('PER')['yhat'].plot(ax=ax,color='red',lw=2,legend=False)
```

```
Out[33]: <matplotlib.axes._subplots.AxesSubplot at 0x1a1b6be5f8>
```



NOTES: There is a high correlation between PER and win shares, showing PER to be an extremely important statistic in determining a player's value. However, this correlation is lower than the correlation between BPM and Win shares, showing BPM to be a more valuable statistic in determining value.

USG to Win Shares

```
In [34]: USGvWS = stats17.loc[stats17['MP'] > 164][['Player','USG%','WS']]
USGvWS.columns = [['Player','USG','WS']]
USG_to_WS = smf.ols('WS ~ USG',data=USGvWS).fit()
```

```
In [35]: USG_to_WS.rsquared
```

```
Out[35]: 0.21910253645295275
```

```
In [36]: print(USG_to_WS.summary()).
```

```

                                OLS Regression Results
=====
Dep. Variable:                  WS      R-squared:
0.219
Model:                          OLS      Adj. R-squared:
0.217
Method:                        Least Squares      F-statistic:
113.9
Date:                          Thu, 19 Dec 2019      Prob (F-statistic):
1.32e-23
Time:                          19:03:02      Log-Likelihood:
-967.70
No. Observations:              408      AIC:
1939.
Df Residuals:                  406      BIC:
1947.
Df Model:                      1
Covariance Type:              nonrobust
=====
                                coef      std err          t      P>|t|      [0.025
0.975]
-----
Intercept      -1.9355      0.483      -4.009      0.000      -2.885
-0.986
USG             0.2630      0.025     10.673      0.000      0.215
0.311
=====
Omnibus:                69.208      Durbin-Watson:
2.130
Prob(Omnibus):          0.000      Jarque-Bera (JB):
112.773
Skew:                  1.021      Prob(JB):
3.25e-25
Kurtosis:              4.569      Cond. No.
73.7
=====
```

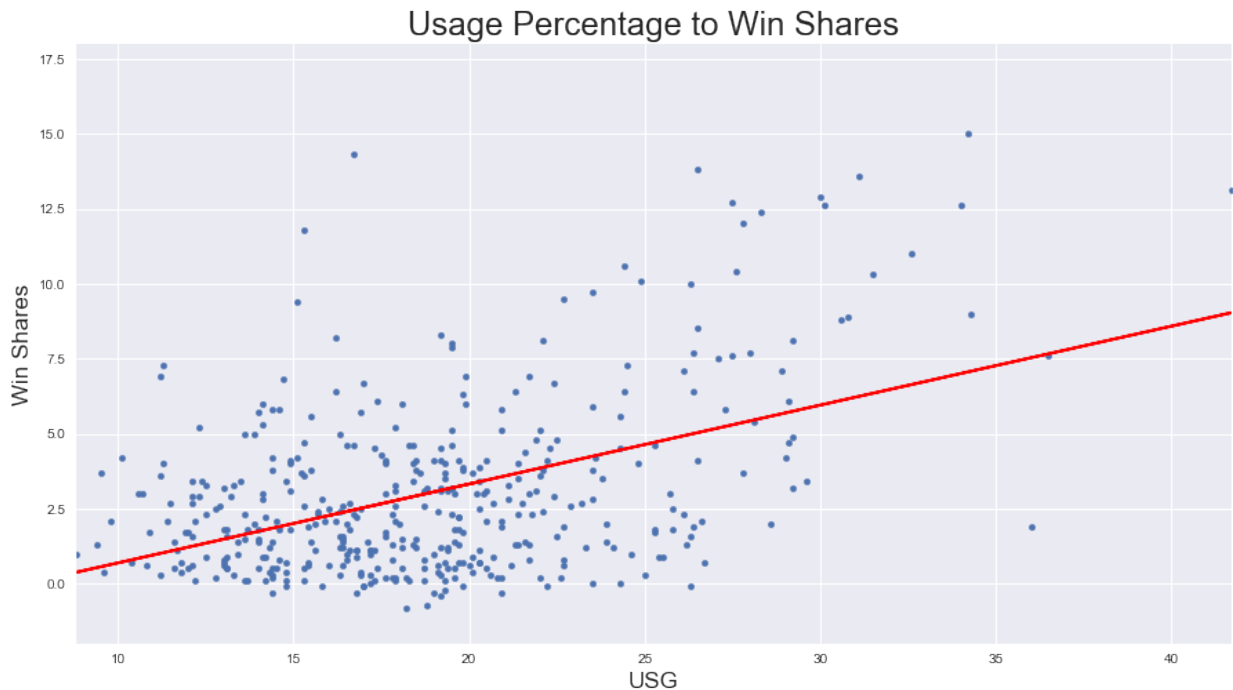
Warnings:

```
[1] Standard Errors assume that the covariance matrix of the errors
is correctly specified.
```

```
In [37]: USGvWS['yhat'] = USG_to_WS.predict().
```

```
In [38]: fig,ax = plt.subplots()
USGvWS.plot.scatter(y='WS',x='USG',ax=ax,alpha=1,figsize = (15,8)).
ax.set_ylim(-2,18).
ax.set_title('Usage Percentage to Win Shares',size=24).
ax.set_ylabel('Win Shares',size = 17).
ax.set_xlabel('Usage Percentage',size = 17).
USGvWS.set_index('USG')['yhat'].plot(ax=ax,color='red',lw=2,legend=False).
```

```
Out[38]: <matplotlib.axes._subplots.AxesSubplot at 0x1a1b69bba8>
```



NOTES: We found there was a positive correlation between Usage and Win Shares in 2017. However, its correlation was lower than both that of BPM and PER, showing it to be an inferior statistic in determining a player's value. Nevertheless, a player with a high usage rate does carry a higher value than a player with a low usage rate due to the positive correlation.

Assists to Win Share

```
In [39]: ASTvWS = stats17.loc[stats17['MP'] > 164][['Player','AST','WS']].
AST_to_WS = smf.ols('WS ~ AST',data=ASTvWS).fit().
```

```
In [40]: AST_to_WS.rsquared
```

```
Out[40]: 0.3718104864938575
```

```
In [41]: print(AST_to_WS.summary()).
```

```
OLS Regression Results
=====
Dep. Variable:          WS      R-squared:
0.372
Model:                  OLS      Adj. R-squared:
0.370
Method:                 Least Squares      F-statistic:
240.3
Date:                   Thu, 19 Dec 2019      Prob (F-statistic):
6.65e-43
Time:                   19:03:05      Log-Likelihood:
-923.31
No. Observations:      408      AIC:
1851.
Df Residuals:          406      BIC:
1859.
Df Model:               1
Covariance Type:       nonrobust
=====
=====
              coef      std err          t      P>|t|      [0.025
0.975]
-----
Intercept      1.2854      0.161      7.972      0.000      0.968
1.602
AST             0.0131      0.001     15.502      0.000      0.011
0.015
=====
=====
Omnibus:          99.099      Durbin-Watson:
2.005
Prob(Omnibus):    0.000      Jarque-Bera (JB):
244.790
Skew:             1.195      Prob(JB):
6.99e-54
Kurtosis:         5.948      Cond. No.
267.
=====
=====
```

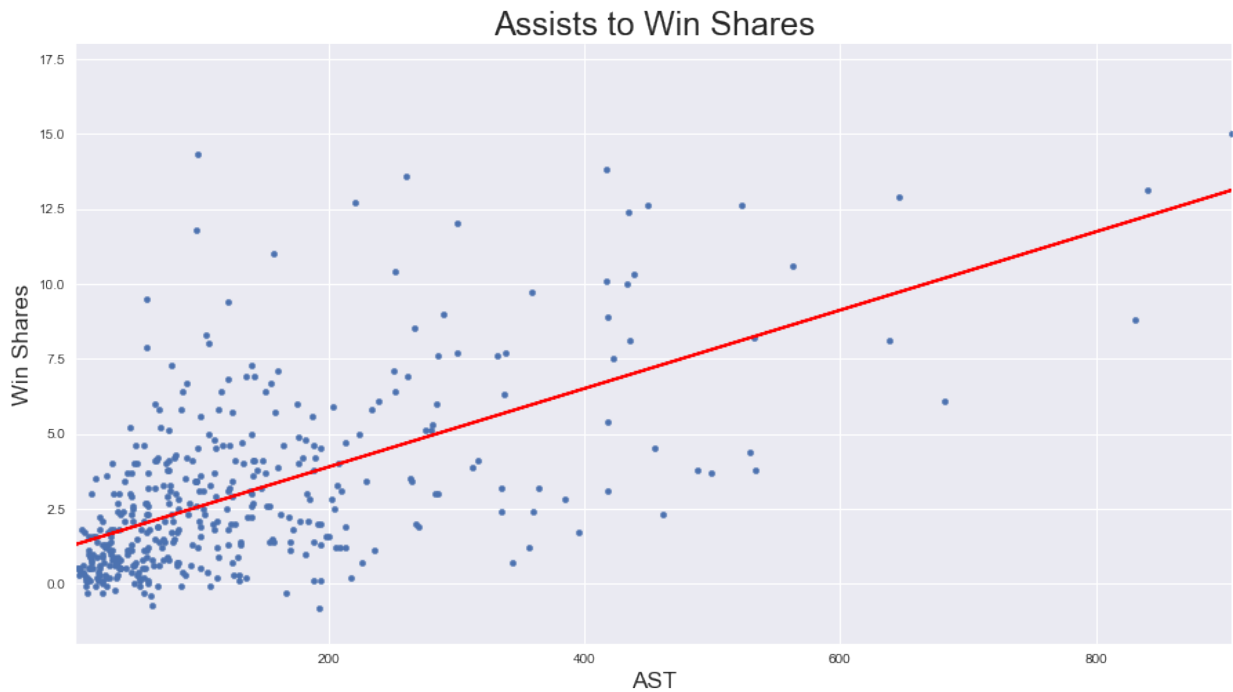
Warnings:

```
[1] Standard Errors assume that the covariance matrix of the errors
is correctly specified.
```

```
In [42]: ASTvWS['yhat'] = AST_to_WS.predict().
```

```
In [43]: fig,ax = plt.subplots()
ASTvWS.plot.scatter(y='WS',x='AST',ax=ax,alpha=1,figsize=(15,8))
ax.set_ylim(-2,18)
ax.set_title('Assists to Win Shares',size=24)
ax.set_ylabel('Win Shares',size=17)
ax.set_xlabel('Assists',size=17)
ASTvWS.set_index('AST')['yhat'].plot(ax=ax,color='red',lw=2,legend=False)
```

```
Out[43]: <matplotlib.axes._subplots.AxesSubplot at 0x1a1a99f978>
```



NOTES: Out of rebounds, points, and assists, assists had the lowest correlation to win shares, showing it to be the least valuable of the 3 statistics. Nevertheless, its positive correlation does show that it carries some value in a player's contribution, but not as high a value as rebounds and points.

Points to Win Share

```
In [44]: PTSvWS = stats17.loc[stats17['MP'] > 164][['Player','PTS','WS']]
PTS_to_WS = smf.ols('WS ~ PTS',data=PTSVWS).fit()
```

```
In [45]: PTS_to_WS.rsquared
```

```
Out[45]: 0.7015367206417511
```

```
In [46]: print(PTS_to_WS.summary()).
```

```
OLS Regression Results
=====
Dep. Variable:          WS      R-squared:
0.702
Model:                  OLS      Adj. R-squared:
0.701
Method:                 Least Squares      F-statistic:
954.3
Date:                   Thu, 19 Dec 2019      Prob (F-statistic):
1.19e-108
Time:                   19:03:09      Log-Likelihood:
-771.50
No. Observations:       408      AIC:
1547.
Df Residuals:           406      BIC:
1555.
Df Model:                1
Covariance Type:        nonrobust
=====
=====

```

	coef	std err	t	P> t	[0.025
	0.975]				
Intercept	-0.1904	0.131	-1.452	0.147	-0.448
PTS	0.0052	0.000	30.892	0.000	0.005

```
=====
=====
Omnibus:                60.292      Durbin-Watson:
2.119
Prob(Omnibus):           0.000      Jarque-Bera (JB):
259.814
Skew:                    0.549      Prob(JB):
3.82e-57
Kurtosis:                6.752      Cond. No.
1.30e+03
=====
=====
```

Warnings:

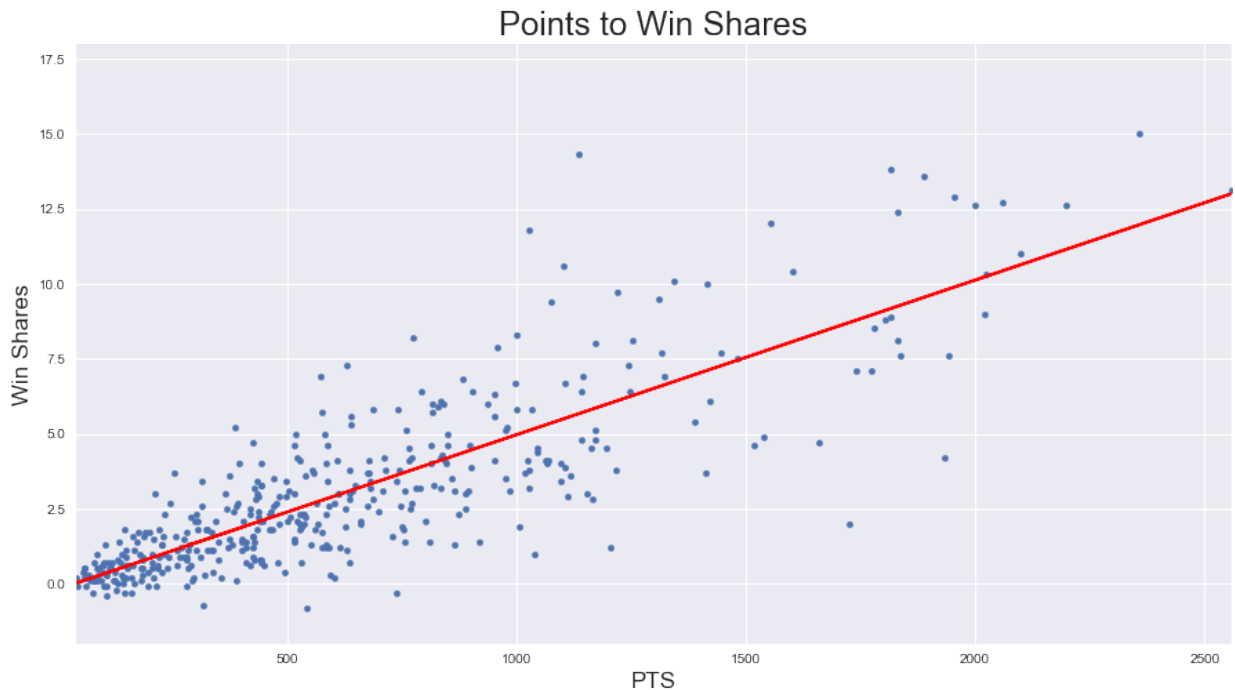
```
[1] Standard Errors assume that the covariance matrix of the errors
is correctly specified.
[2] The condition number is large, 1.3e+03. This might indicate that
there are
strong multicollinearity or other numerical problems.
```

```
In [47]: PTSvWS['yhat'] = PTS_to_WS.predict().
```



```
In [48]: fig,ax = plt.subplots()
PTSvWS.plot.scatter(y='WS',x='PTS',ax=ax,alpha=1,figsize=(15,8))
ax.set_ylim(-2,18)
ax.set_title('Points to Win Shares',size=24)
ax.set_ylabel('Win Shares',size=17)
ax.set_xlabel('Points',size=17)
PTSvWS.set_index('PTS')['yhat'].plot(ax=ax,color='red',lw=2,legend=False)
```

```
Out[48]: <matplotlib.axes._subplots.AxesSubplot at 0x1a1a9984e0>
```



NOTES: Points had the highest correlation out of assists, rebounds, and points, showing that players with high point totals carry a higher value than players with high assist and rebound values. This is to be expected, as wins are determined by the team with more points, not necessarily more assists or rebounds.

Rebounds to Win Share

```
In [49]: TRBvWS = stats17.loc[stats17['MP'] > 164][['Player','TRB','WS']]
TRB_to_WS = smf.ols('WS ~ TRB',data=TRBvWS).fit()
```

```
In [50]: TRB_to_WS.rsquared
```

```
Out[50]: 0.5491508080724545
```

```
In [51]: print(TRB_to_WS.summary()).
```

```

                                OLS Regression Results
=====
Dep. Variable:                  WS      R-squared:
0.549
Model:                          OLS      Adj. R-squared:
0.548
Method:                        Least Squares      F-statistic:
494.5
Date:                          Thu, 19 Dec 2019      Prob (F-statistic):
3.13e-72
Time:                          19:03:12      Log-Likelihood:
-855.64
No. Observations:              408      AIC:
1715.
Df Residuals:                  406      BIC:
1723.
Df Model:                      1
Covariance Type:               nonrobust
=====
                                coef      std err          t      P>|t|      [0.025
0.975]
-----
Intercept      0.1673      0.162      1.034      0.302      -0.151
0.485
TRB            0.0112      0.001     22.238      0.000      0.010
0.012
=====
Omnibus:              165.560      Durbin-Watson:
2.048
Prob(Omnibus):        0.000      Jarque-Bera (JB):
739.943
Skew:                 1.743      Prob(JB):
2.11e-161
Kurtosis:             8.601      Cond. No.
532.
=====
```

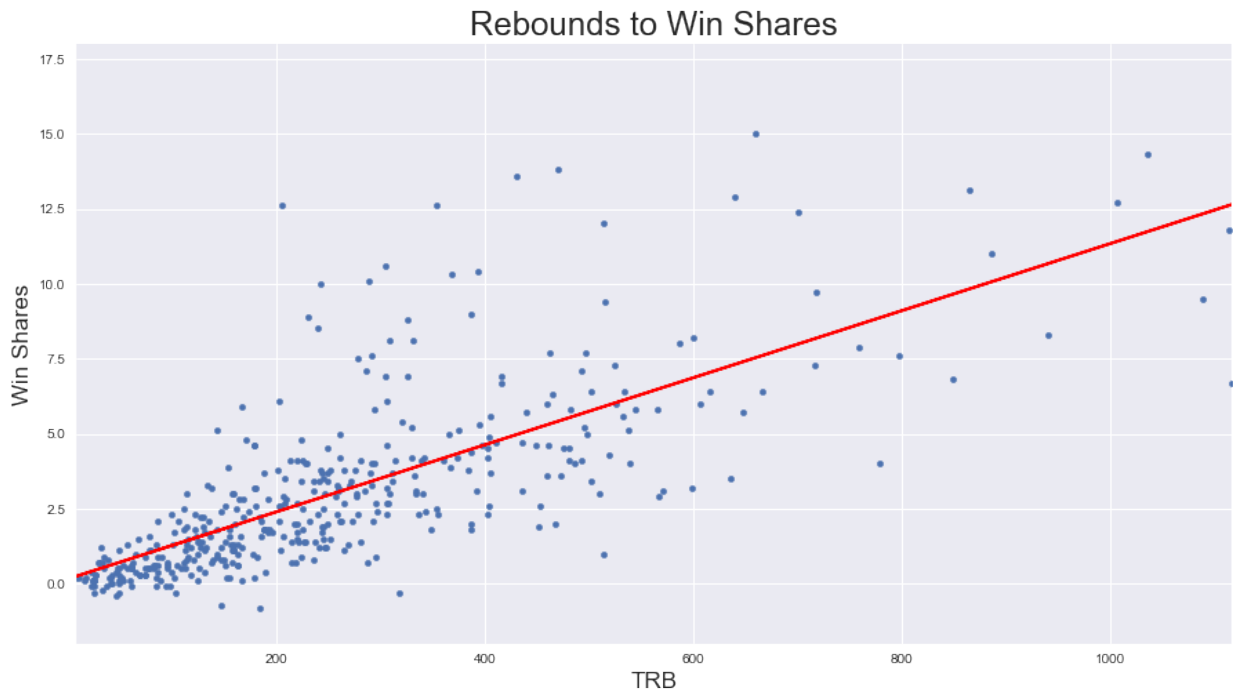
Warnings:

```
[1] Standard Errors assume that the covariance matrix of the errors
is correctly specified.
```

```
In [52]: TRBvWS['yhat'] = TRB_to_WS.predict().
```

```
In [53]: fig,ax = plt.subplots()
TRBvWS.plot.scatter(y='WS',x='TRB',ax=ax,alpha=1,figsize=(15,8))
ax.set_ylim(-2,18)
ax.set_title('Rebounds to Win Shares',size=24)
ax.set_ylabel('Win Shares',size=17)
ax.set_xlabel('Rebounds',size=17)
TRBvWS.set_index('TRB')['yhat'].plot(ax=ax,color='red',lw=2,legend=False)
```

```
Out[53]: <matplotlib.axes._subplots.AxesSubplot at 0x1a1aa7d588>
```



NOTES: We found that Rebounds had a stronger correlation to Win Shares than Assists, supporting an argument that it is a more important statistic than Assists. Therefore, one can conclude that rebounds should carry over more value than assists, and players who have a higher number of rebounds should be valued higher than players who have the same relative number of assists.

Steals to Win Share

```
In [54]: STLvWS = stats17.loc[stats17['MP'] > 164][['Player','STL','WS']].
STL_to_WS = smf.ols('WS ~ STL',data=STLvWS).fit()
```

```
In [55]: STL_to_WS.rsquared
```

```
Out[55]: 0.45671728900372566
```

```
In [56]: print(STL_to_WS.summary()).
```

```

                                OLS Regression Results
=====
Dep. Variable:                  WS      R-squared:
0.457
Model:                          OLS      Adj. R-squared:
0.455
Method:                        Least Squares      F-statistic:
341.3
Date:                          Thu, 19 Dec 2019      Prob (F-statistic):
9.48e-56
Time:                          19:03:16      Log-Likelihood:
-893.69
No. Observations:              408      AIC:
1791.
Df Residuals:                  406      BIC:
1799.
Df Model:                      1
Covariance Type:              nonrobust
=====
                                coef      std err          t      P>|t|      [0.025
0.975]
-----
Intercept      0.1571      0.189      0.831      0.406      -0.214
0.529
STL             0.0635      0.003     18.475      0.000      0.057
0.070
=====
Omnibus:              112.332      Durbin-Watson:
2.150
Prob(Omnibus):        0.000      Jarque-Bera (JB):
321.327
Skew:                1.291      Prob(JB):
1.68e-70
Kurtosis:            6.499      Cond. No.
96.8
=====
```

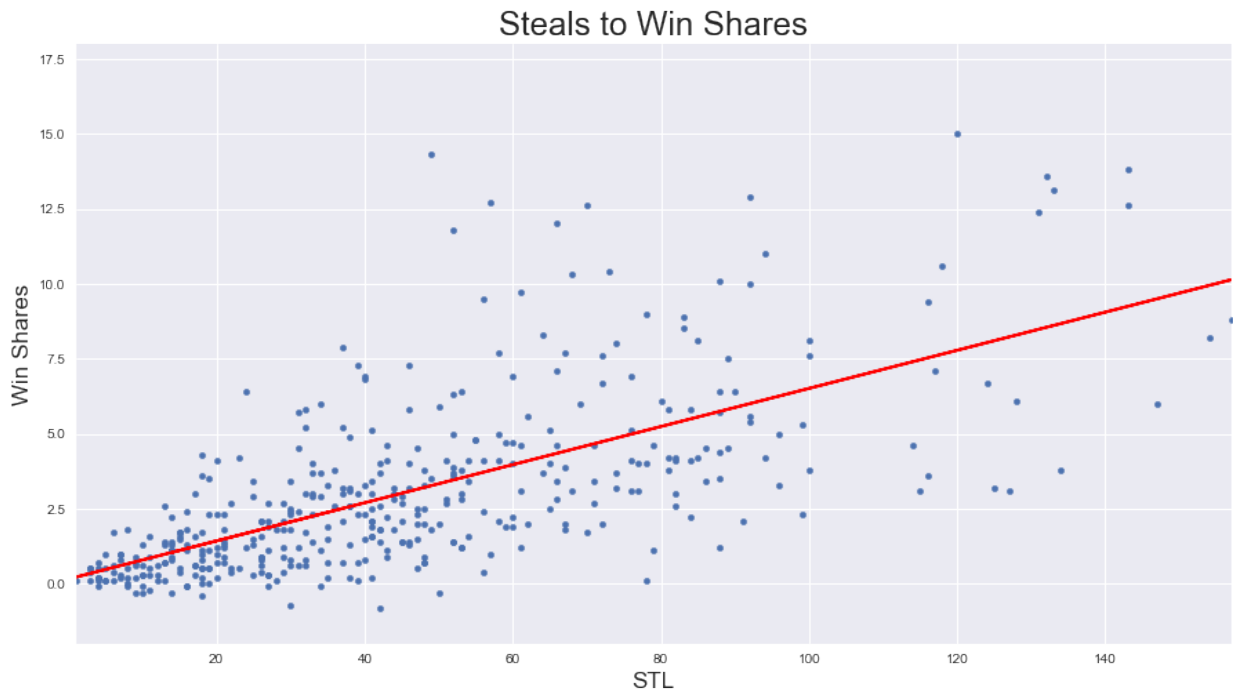
Warnings:

```
[1] Standard Errors assume that the covariance matrix of the errors
is correctly specified.
```

```
In [57]: STLvWS['yhat'] = STL_to_WS.predict().
```

```
In [58]: fig,ax = plt.subplots()
STLvWS.plot.scatter(y='WS',x='STL',ax=ax,alpha=1,figsize=(15,8))
ax.set_ylim(-2,18)
ax.set_title('Steals to Win Shares',size=24)
ax.set_ylabel('Win Shares',size=17)
ax.set_xlabel('Steals',size=17)
STLvWS.set_index('STL')['yhat'].plot(ax=ax,color='red',lw=2,legend=False)
```

```
Out[58]: <matplotlib.axes._subplots.AxesSubplot at 0x1a1a9af400>
```



NOTES: Out of our defensive statistics, we found that Steals had a stronger correlation to Win Shares than blocks. This makes sense because a steal translates to possession and a scoring opportunity for the team causing the steal, while blocks often do not change possession. (see next graph)

Blocks to Win Share

```
In [59]: BLKvWS = stats17.loc[stats17['MP'] > 164][['Player','BLK','WS']]
BLK_to_WS = smf.ols('WS ~ BLK',data=BLKvWS).fit()
```

```
In [60]: BLK_to_WS.rsquared
```

```
Out[60]: 0.3171574808560784
```

```
In [61]: print(BLK_to_WS.summary()).
```

```

                                OLS Regression Results
=====
Dep. Variable:                  WS      R-squared:
0.317
Model:                          OLS      Adj. R-squared:
0.315
Method:                        Least Squares      F-statistic:
188.6
Date:                          Thu, 19 Dec 2019      Prob (F-statistic):
1.63e-35
Time:                          19:03:20      Log-Likelihood:
-940.33
No. Observations:              408      AIC:
1885.
Df Residuals:                  406      BIC:
1893.
Df Model:                      1
Covariance Type:              nonrobust
=====
                                coef      std err          t      P>|t|      [0.025
0.975]
-----
Intercept      1.5008      0.164      9.151      0.000      1.178
1.823
BLK             0.0552      0.004     13.732      0.000      0.047
0.063
=====
Omnibus:              174.907      Durbin-Watson:
2.127
Prob(Omnibus):        0.000      Jarque-Bera (JB):
674.561
Skew:                1.934      Prob(JB):
3.32e-147
Kurtosis:            7.972      Cond. No.
55.6
=====
```

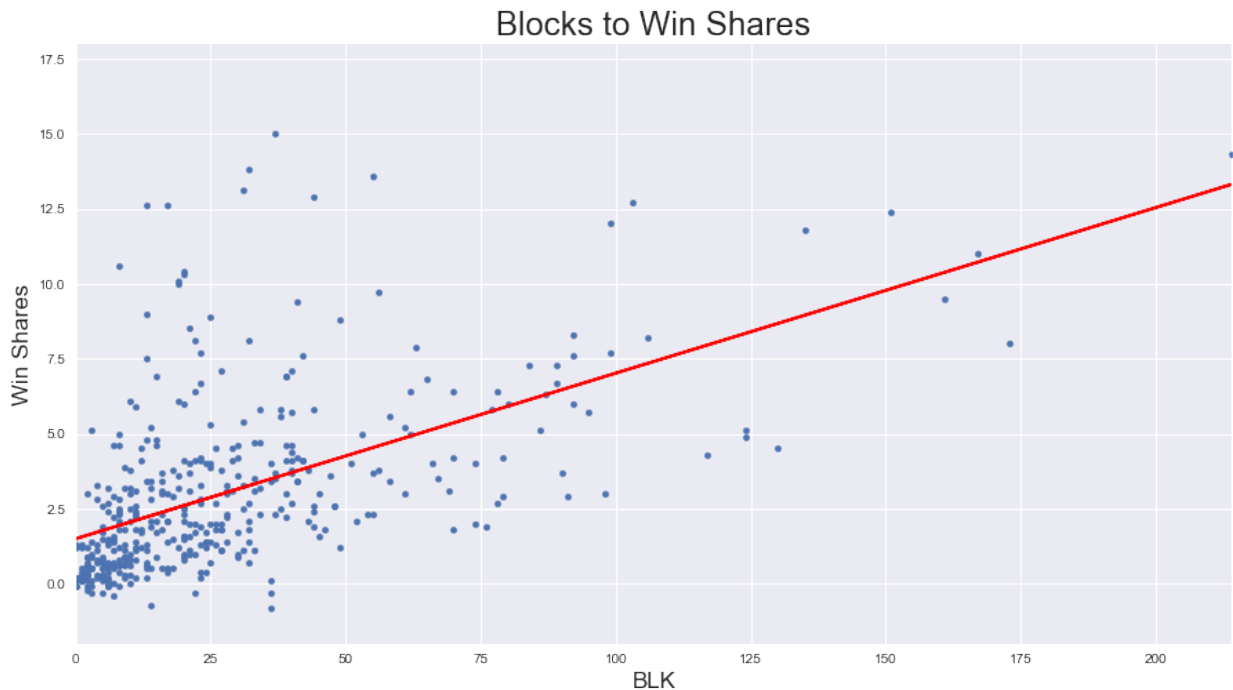
Warnings:

[1] Standard Errors assume that the covariance matrix of the errors is correctly specified.

```
In [62]: BLKvWS['yhat'] = BLK_to_WS.predict().
```

```
In [63]: fig,ax = plt.subplots()
BLKvWS.plot.scatter(y='WS',x='BLK',ax=ax,alpha=1,figsize = (15,8)).
ax.set_ylim(-2,18).
ax.set_title('Blocks to Win Shares',size=24).
ax.set_ylabel('Win Shares',size = 17).
ax.set_xlabel('Blocks',size = 17).
BLKvWS.set_index('BLK')['yhat'].plot(ax=ax,color='red',lw=2,legend='False').
```

```
Out[63]: <matplotlib.axes._subplots.AxesSubplot at 0x1a1f9ae978>
```



Calculations Regarding Special Performers and Player Values

In this section, we will look at the statistics of players who are not receiving many minutes but are still putting up large numbers, players who are young but effective, and players with high BPM, USG%, and PER statistics. We will adjust for players who have high BPM, USG%, and PER due to low minutes played by ensuring all players average at least 2 minutes per game. We will compare players as a whole, as well as by position, eventually taking into account a player's salary.

Assists

Low Minutes, High Assists

```
In [64]: LowMinHiAST = (stats17.loc[stats17['MP'] < stats17['MP'].median()][stats17['AST'] > stats17['AST'].median()])  
          [['Player', 'Pos', 'Age', 'AST', 'MP', 'Salary']])  
Top10LowMinHiAST = LowMinHiAST.sort_values('AST', ascending = False).head(10)  
Top10LowMinHiAST
```

```
//anaconda3/lib/python3.7/site-packages/ipykernel_launcher.py:1: Use  
rWarning: Boolean Series key will be reindexed to match DataFrame in  
dex.
```

```
"""Entry point for launching an IPython kernel.
```

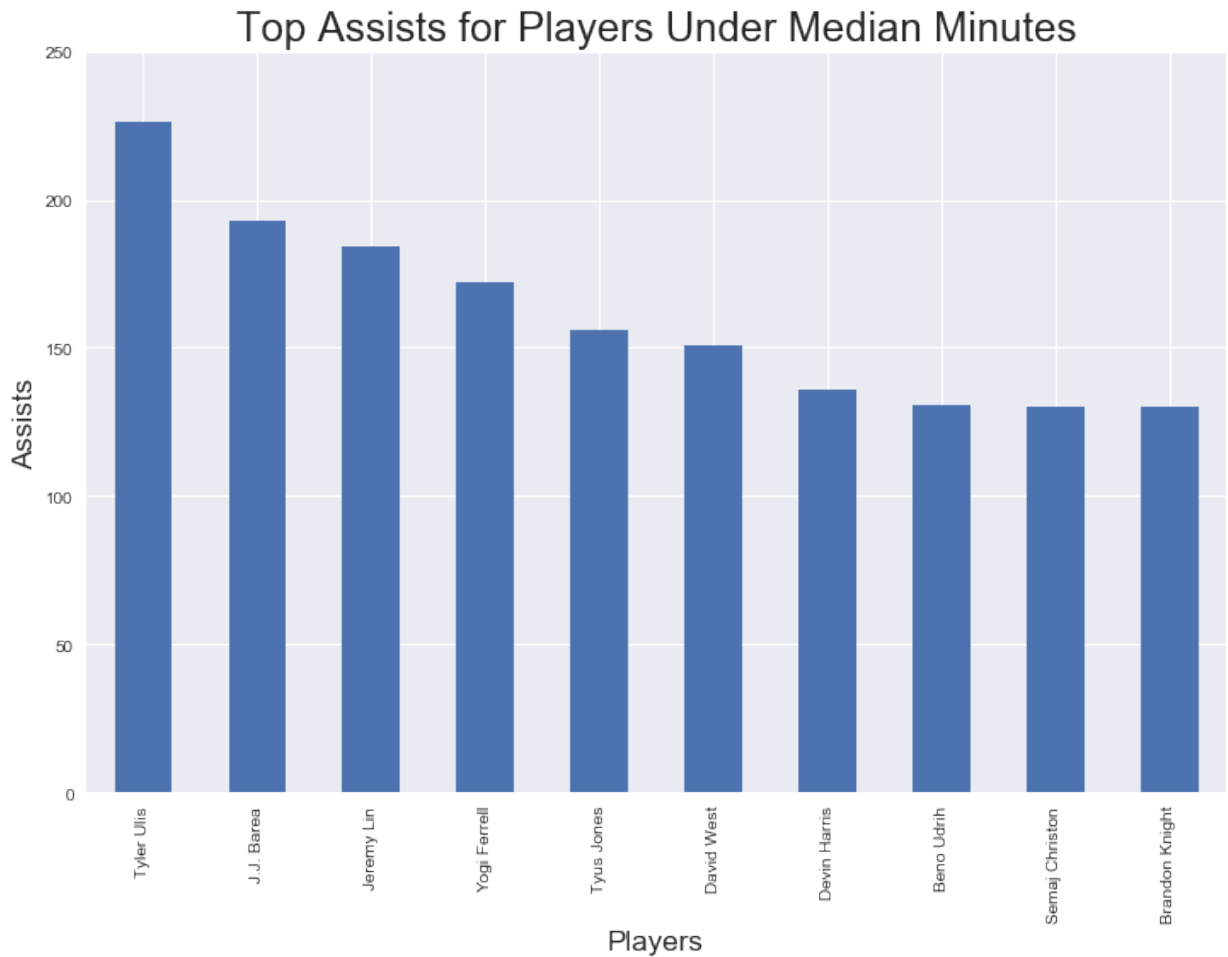
Out[64]:

	Player	Pos	Age	AST	MP	Salary
606	Tyler Ullis	PG	21.0	226.0	1123.0	918369
33	J.J. Barea	PG	32.0	193.0	771.0	4096950
378	Jeremy Lin	PG	28.0	184.0	883.0	11483254
193	Yogi Ferrell	PG	23.0	172.0	1197.0	239767
344	Tyus Jones	PG	20.0	156.0	774.0	1339680
635	David West	C	36.0	151.0	854.0	1551659
257	Devin Harris	PG	33.0	136.0	1087.0	4228000
605	Beno Udrih	PG	34.0	131.0	560.0	1551659
123	Semaj Christon	PG	24.0	130.0	973.0	543471
352	Brandon Knight	SG	25.0	130.0	1140.0	12606250

NOTES: This shows high value players who are potentially underplayed in terms of their production of Assists. Tyler Ullis, Yogi Ferrell, and Tyus Jones seem to be excellent potential targets, as they are under 24 years old and already putting up great numbers despite inexperience, low minutes, and low salary. These attributes make them extremely valuable, as they offer a high, long-term reward for a low cost.


```
In [65]: fig,ax = plt.subplots()
Top10LowMinHiAST.plot.bar(x='Player',y='AST',ax=ax,figsize=(12,8), leg
end = False)
ax.set_ylim(0,250)
ax.set_title('Top Assists for Players Under Median Minutes',size=24)
ax.set_ylabel('Assists',size = 17)
ax.set_xlabel('Players',size = 17)
```

```
Out[65]: Text(0.5, 0, 'Players')
```



Low Salary, High Assists

```
In [66]: LowSALHiAST = stats17.loc[stats17['Salary'] < stats17['Salary'].median(
.)][['Player', 'Pos', 'Age', 'AST', 'Salary']]
Top10LowSALHiAST = LowSALHiAST.sort_values('AST', ascending = False).head(10)
Top10LowSALHiAST
```

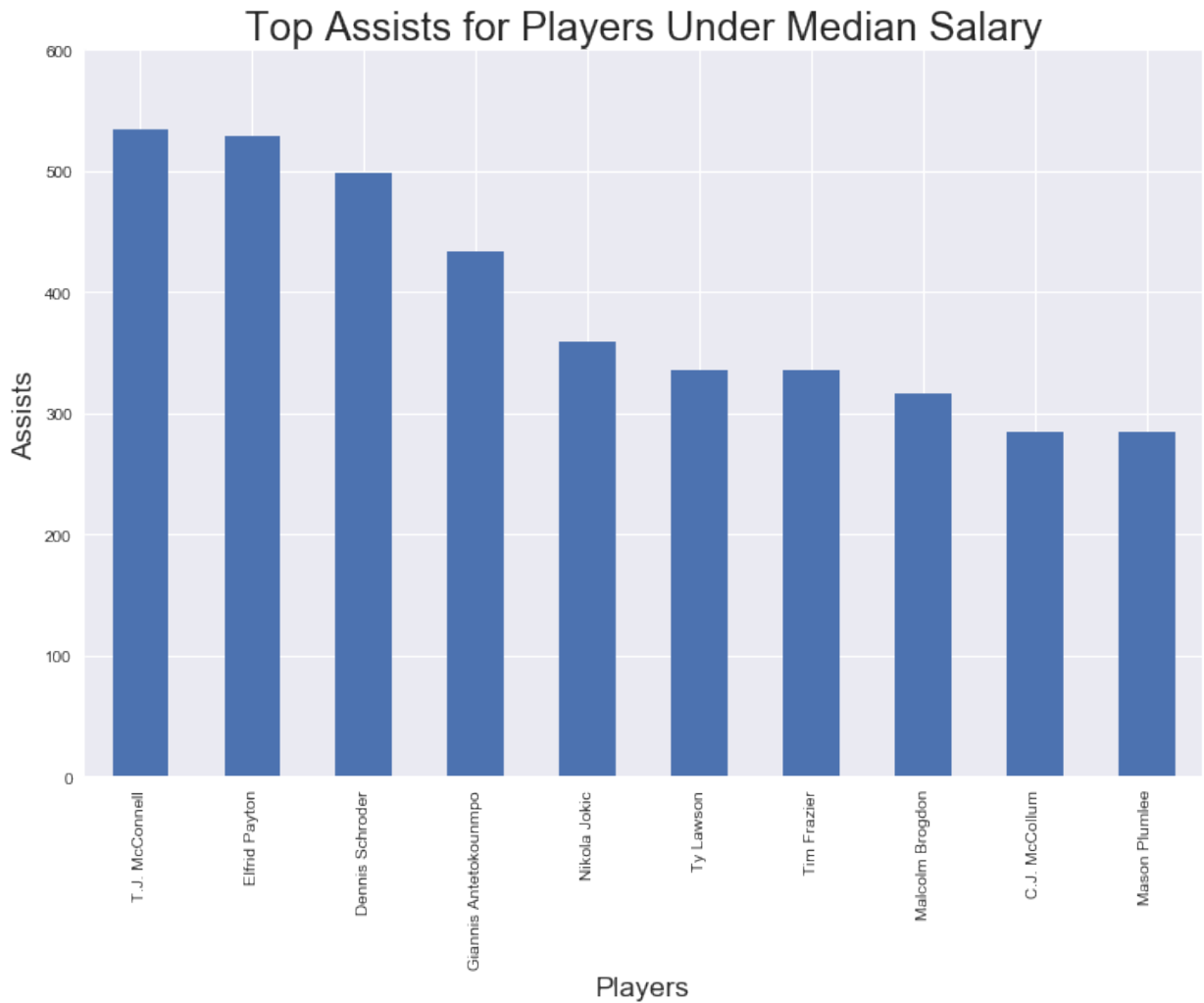
Out[66]:

	Player	Pos	Age	AST	Salary
397	T.J. McConnell	PG	24.0	534.0	874636
476	Elfrid Payton	PG	22.0	529.0	2613600
529	Dennis Schroder	PG	23.0	499.0	2708582
22	Giannis Antetokounmpo	SF	22.0	434.0	2995421
333	Nikola Jokic	C	21.0	359.0	1358500
365	Ty Lawson	PG	29.0	335.0	1315448
203	Tim Frazier	PG	26.0	335.0	2090000
79	Malcolm Brogdon	SG	24.0	317.0	925000
396	C.J. McCollum	SG	25.0	285.0	3219579
481	Mason Plumlee	C	26.0	284.0	2328530

NOTES: This shows the assist numbers for low cost players which is extremely valuable to GMs because it provides a high performance for a minimal salary expense. T.J. McConnell and Malcolm Brogdon are very appealing to teams, as they put up high assist totals while costing under \$1 million, and being under 25 years old, they offer an additional long-term value to their teams.

```
In [67]: fig,ax = plt.subplots()
Top10LowSALHiAST.plot.bar(x='Player',y='AST',ax=ax,figsize=(12,8), legend = False)
ax.set_ylim(0,600)
ax.set_title('Top Assists for Players Under Median Salary',size=24)
ax.set_ylabel('Assists',size = 17)
ax.set_xlabel('Players',size = 17)
```

```
Out[67]: Text(0.5, 0, 'Players')
```



Assists per Minute (Assist Efficiency)

```
In [68]: stats17['ASTperMP'] = stats17['AST']/stats17['MP'].
ASTperMin= stats17.loc[stats17['MP'] > 164][['Player','Pos','Age','AST',
', 'MP', 'ASTperMP', 'Salary']].
Top10ASTperMin = ASTperMin.sort_values('ASTperMP', ascending = False).
head(10)
Top10ASTperMin
# We filtered our data to only include players with more than 2 minute
s played per game in order for the most accurate results.
```

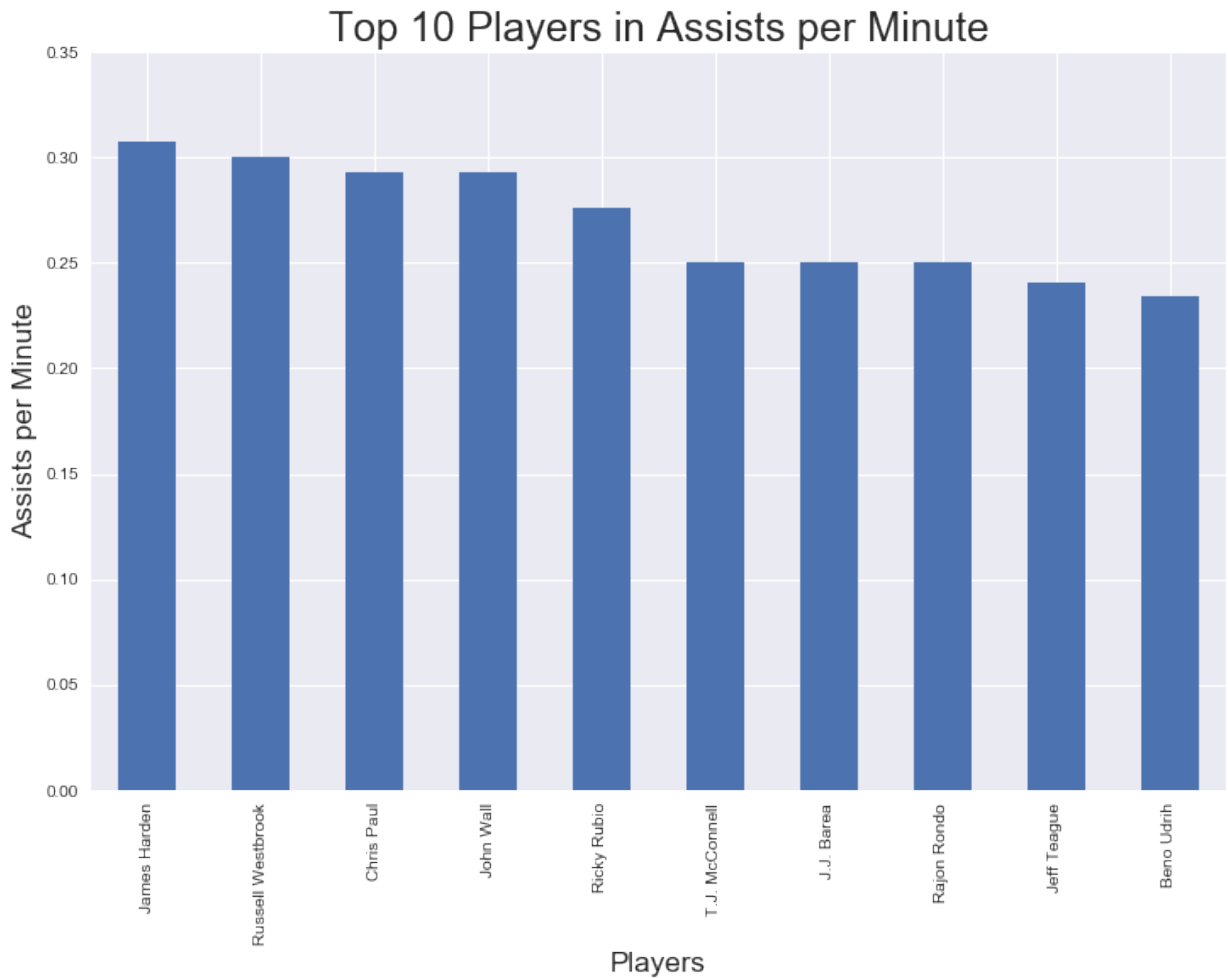
Out[68]:

	Player	Pos	Age	AST	MP	ASTperMP	Salary
253	James Harden	PG	27.0	906.0	2947.0	0.307431	26540100
636	Russell Westbrook	PG	28.0	840.0	2802.0	0.299786	26540100
471	Chris Paul	PG	31.0	563.0	1921.0	0.293077	22868827
622	John Wall	PG	26.0	831.0	2836.0	0.293018	16957900
521	Ricky Rubio	PG	26.0	682.0	2469.0	0.276225	13550000
397	T.J. McConnell	PG	24.0	534.0	2133.0	0.250352	874636
33	J.J. Barea	PG	32.0	193.0	771.0	0.250324	4096950
515	Rajon Rondo	PG	30.0	461.0	1843.0	0.250136	14000000
576	Jeff Teague	PG	28.0	639.0	2657.0	0.240497	8800000
605	Beno Udrih	PG	34.0	131.0	560.0	0.233929	1551659

NOTES: TJ McConnell appears to be highly undervalued, as he is in the top ten for Assists per minute, but does not even make 1 million dollars. There is a low cost, high return value for teams to go for this type of player. Additionally, TJ McConnell is only 24, adding to his value by the possibility of long term availability.

```
In [69]: fig,ax = plt.subplots()
Top10ASTperMin.plot.bar(x='Player',y='ASTperMP',ax=ax,figsize=(12,8),
legend = False)
ax.set_ylim(0,0.35)
ax.set_title('Top 10 Players in Assists per Minute',size=24)
ax.set_ylabel('Assists per Minute',size = 17)
ax.set_xlabel('Players',size = 17)
```

```
Out[69]: Text(0.5, 0, 'Players')
```



Low Salary, High Assists Per Minute

```
In [70]: stats17['ASTperMP'] = stats17['AST']/stats17['MP'].
ASTperMin2= (stats17.loc[stats17['MP'] > 164][stats17['Salary'] < stat
s17['Salary'].median()]).
           [['Player', 'Pos', 'Age', 'AST', 'MP', 'ASTperMP', 'Salary']]).
Top10ASTperMin2 = ASTperMin2.sort_values('ASTperMP', ascending = False
).head(10)
Top10ASTperMin2
# We filtered our data to only include players with more than 2 minute
s played per game in order for the most accurate results.
```

```
//anaconda3/lib/python3.7/site-packages/ipykernel_launcher.py:2: Use
rWarning: Boolean Series key will be reindexed to match DataFrame in
dex.
```

Out[70]:

	Player	Pos	Age	AST	MP	ASTperMP	Salary
397	T.J. McConnell	PG	24.0	534.0	2133.0	0.250352	874636
605	Beno Udrih	PG	34.0	131.0	560.0	0.233929	1551659
203	Tim Frazier	PG	26.0	335.0	1525.0	0.219672	2090000
293	Marcelo Huertas	PG	33.0	52.0	237.0	0.219409	1500000
476	Elfrid Payton	PG	22.0	529.0	2412.0	0.219320	2613600
344	Tyus Jones	PG	20.0	156.0	774.0	0.201550	1339680
606	Tyler Ulis	PG	21.0	226.0	1123.0	0.201247	918369
529	Dennis Schroder	PG	23.0	499.0	2485.0	0.200805	2708582
365	Ty Lawson	PG	29.0	335.0	1732.0	0.193418	1315448
635	David West	C	36.0	151.0	854.0	0.176815	1551659

NOTES: This shows the players who cost less than the median salary who provide the most efficiency in dishing out assists. Once again, TJ McConnell looks to be an undervalued asset, and Elfrid Payton, Tyus Jones, and Tyler Ulis are also highly valuable due to their youth and low salaries.

```

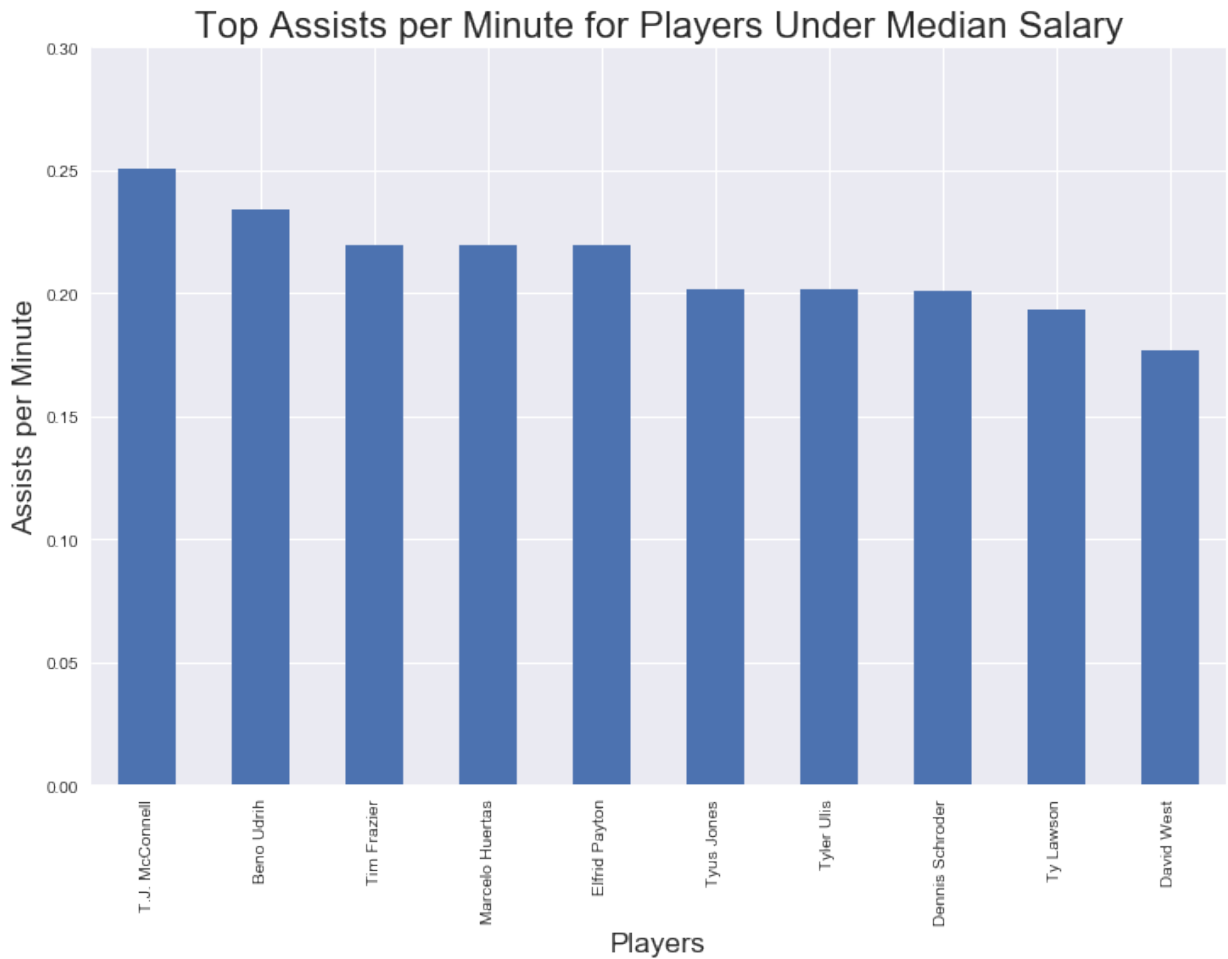
In [71]: fig,ax = plt.subplots()
Top10ASTperMin2.plot.bar(x='Player',y='ASTperMP',ax=ax,figsize=(12,8),
legend = False)
ax.set_ylim(0,.3)
ax.set_title('Top Assists per Minute for Players Under Median Salary',
size=22)
ax.set_ylabel('Assists per Minute',size = 17)
ax.set_xlabel('Players',size = 17)

```

```

Out[71]: Text(0.5, 0, 'Players')

```



Points

Low Minutes, High Points

```
In [72]: LowMinHiPTS = (stats17.loc[stats17['MP'] < stats17['MP'].median()][stats17['PTS'] > stats17['PTS'].median()])
          [['Player', 'Pos', 'Age', 'PTS', 'MP', 'Salary']]).
Top10LowMinHiPTS = LowMinHiPTS.sort_values('PTS', ascending = False).head(10)
Top10LowMinHiPTS
```

```
//anaconda3/lib/python3.7/site-packages/ipykernel_launcher.py:1: Use
rWarning: Boolean Series key will be reindexed to match DataFrame in
dex.
```

```
"""Entry point for launching an IPython kernel.
```

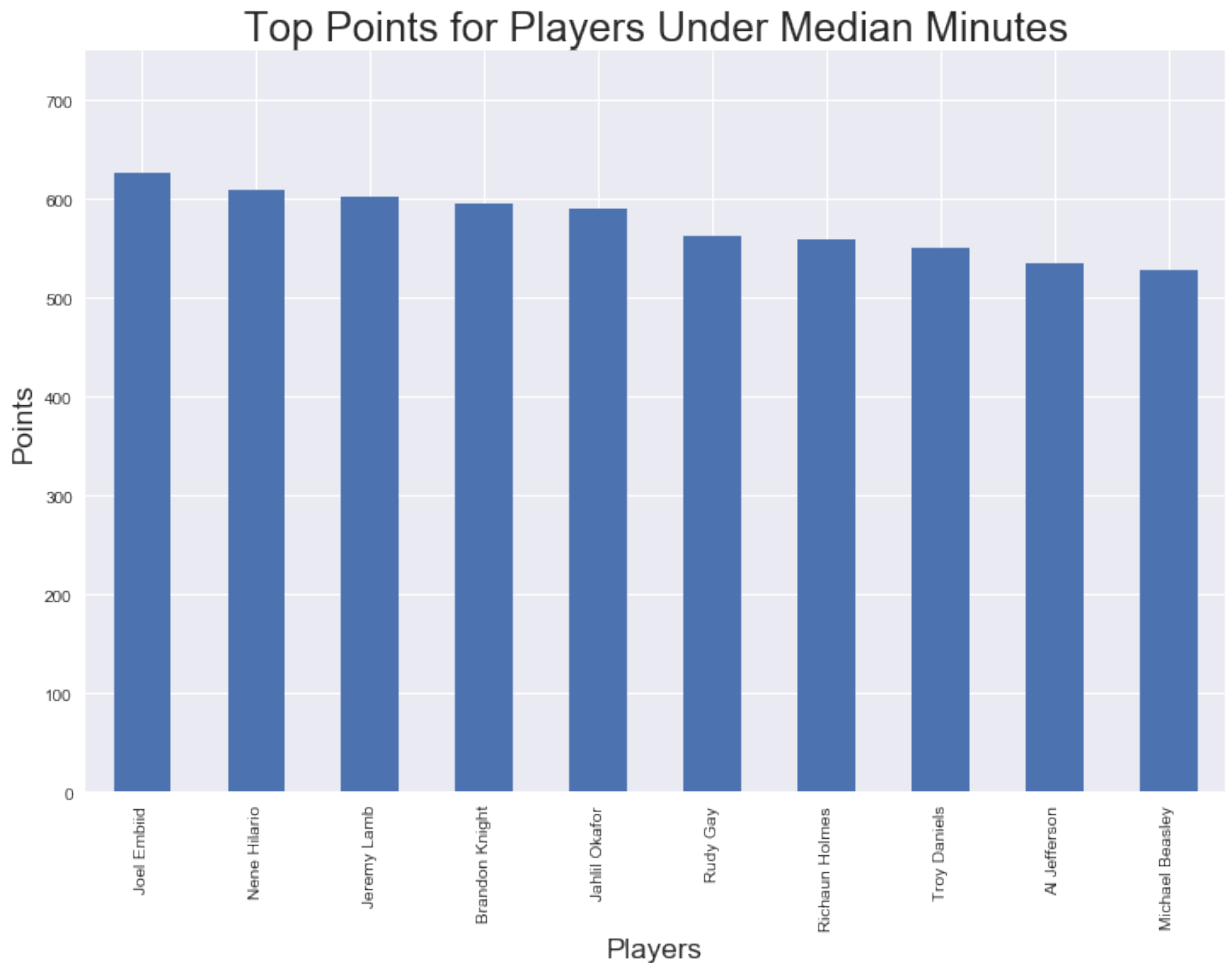
Out[72]:

	Player	Pos	Age	PTS	MP	Salary
177	Joel Embiid	C	22.0	627.0	786.0	4826160
280	Nene Hilario	C	34.0	609.0	1198.0	2898000
359	Jeremy Lamb	SG	24.0	603.0	1143.0	6511628
352	Brandon Knight	SG	25.0	595.0	1140.0	12606250
457	Jahlil Okafor	C	21.0	590.0	1134.0	4788840
213	Rudy Gay	SF	30.0	562.0	1013.0	13333333
288	Richaun Holmes	C	23.0	559.0	1193.0	1025831
148	Troy Daniels	SG	25.0	551.0	1183.0	3332940
316	Al Jefferson	C	32.0	535.0	931.0	10230179
49	Michael Beasley	PF	28.0	528.0	935.0	1403611

NOTES: This shows the players who receive less than the median minutes played who produce the most points. Joel Embiid, Jahlil Okafor, and Richaun Holmes seem to be very valuable players who are on low cost salaries and putting up high numbers despite fewer minutes and young ages. Perhaps the best target in this group is Richaun Holmes, who is only 23 years old and costs less than \$1 million.


```
In [73]: fig,ax = plt.subplots()
Top10LowMinHiPTS.plot.bar(x='Player',y='PTS',ax=ax,figsize=(12,8), leg
end = False).
ax.set_ylim(0,750).
ax.set_title('Top Points for Players Under Median Minutes',size=24).
ax.set_ylabel('Points',size = 17).
ax.set_xlabel('Players',size = 17).
```

```
Out[73]: Text(0.5, 0, 'Players')
```



Low Salary, High Points

```
In [74]: LowSALHiPTS = stats17.loc[stats17['Salary'] < stats17['Salary'].median
          .()][['Player', 'Pos', 'Age', 'PTS', 'Salary']].
          Top10LowSALHiPTS = LowSALHiPTS.sort_values('PTS', ascending = False).h
          ead(10)
          Top10LowSALHiPTS
```

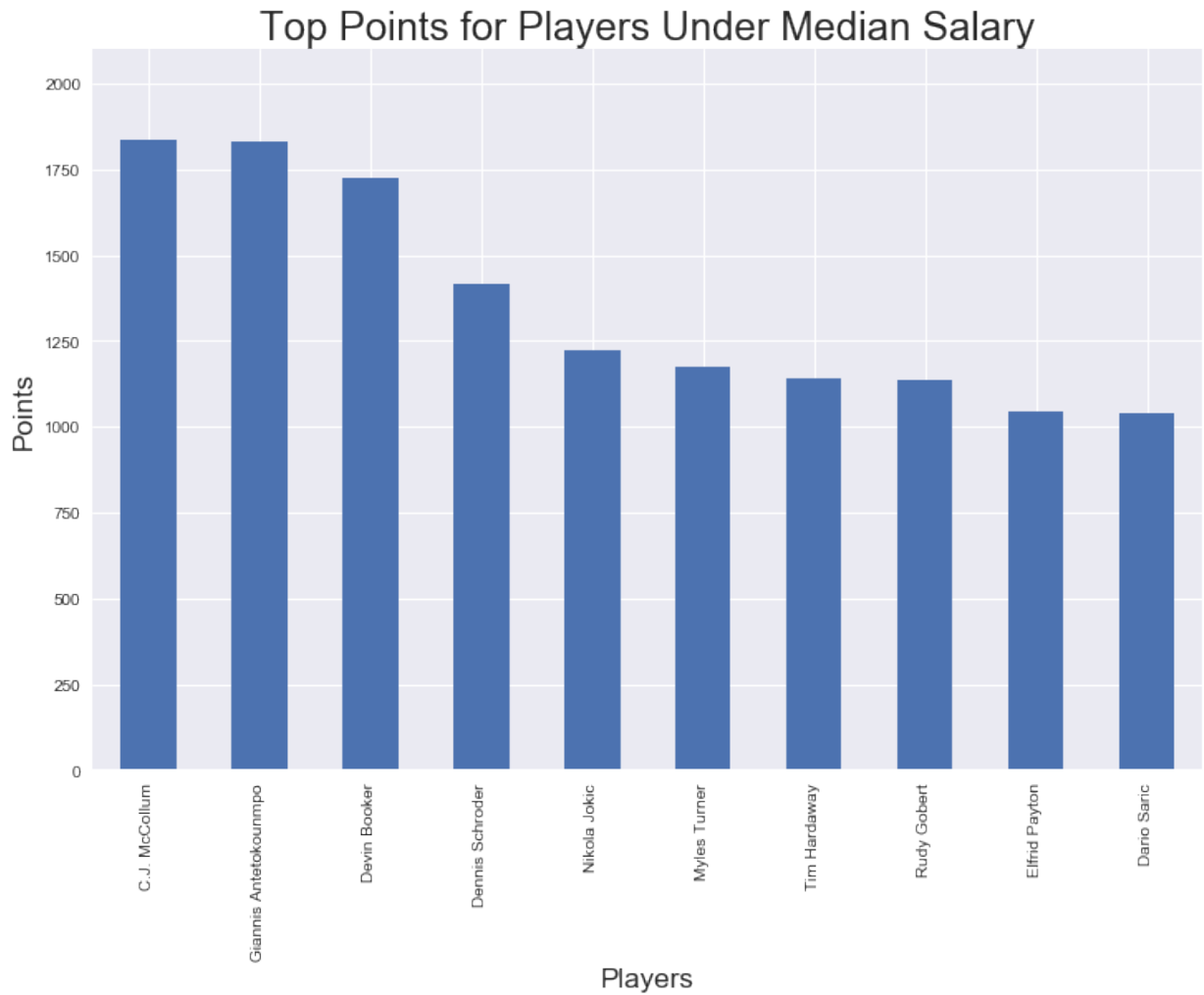
Out[74]:

	Player	Pos	Age	PTS	Salary
396	C.J. McCollum	SG	25.0	1837.0	3219579
22	Giannis Antetokounmpo	SF	22.0	1832.0	2995421
73	Devin Booker	SG	20.0	1726.0	2223600
529	Dennis Schroder	PG	23.0	1414.0	2708582
333	Nikola Jokic	C	21.0	1221.0	1358500
604	Myles Turner	C	20.0	1173.0	2463840
252	Tim Hardaway	SG	24.0	1143.0	2281605
226	Rudy Gobert	C	24.0	1137.0	2121288
476	Elfrid Payton	PG	22.0	1046.0	2613600
527	Dario Saric	PF	22.0	1040.0	2318280

NOTES: Each of these players show immensely high values to teams, as they are low cost, all under the age of 26, and very effective scorers. Devin Booker is extremely impressive, as he is scoring at an impressive rate at the age of 20. If a team could get Devin Booker, they should attempt to at even a high cost.

```
In [75]: fig,ax = plt.subplots()
Top10LowSALHiPTS.plot.bar(x='Player',y='PTS',ax=ax,figsize=(12,8),_leg
end = False).
ax.set_ylim(0,2100).
ax.set_title('Top Points for Players Under Median Salary',size=24).
ax.set_ylabel('Points',size = 17).
ax.set_xlabel('Players',size = 17).
```

```
Out[75]: Text(0.5, 0, 'Players')
```



Points per Minute (Scoring Efficiency)

```

In [76]: stats17['PTSperMP'] = stats17['PTS']/stats17['MP'].
PTSperMin= stats17.loc[stats17['MP'] > 164][['Player', 'Pos', 'Age', 'PTS',
', 'MP', 'PTSperMP', 'Salary']].
Top10PTSperMin = PTSperMin.sort_values('PTSperMP', ascending = False).
head(10)
Top10PTSperMin
# We filtered our data to only include players with more than 2 minutes
played per game in order for the most accurate results.

```

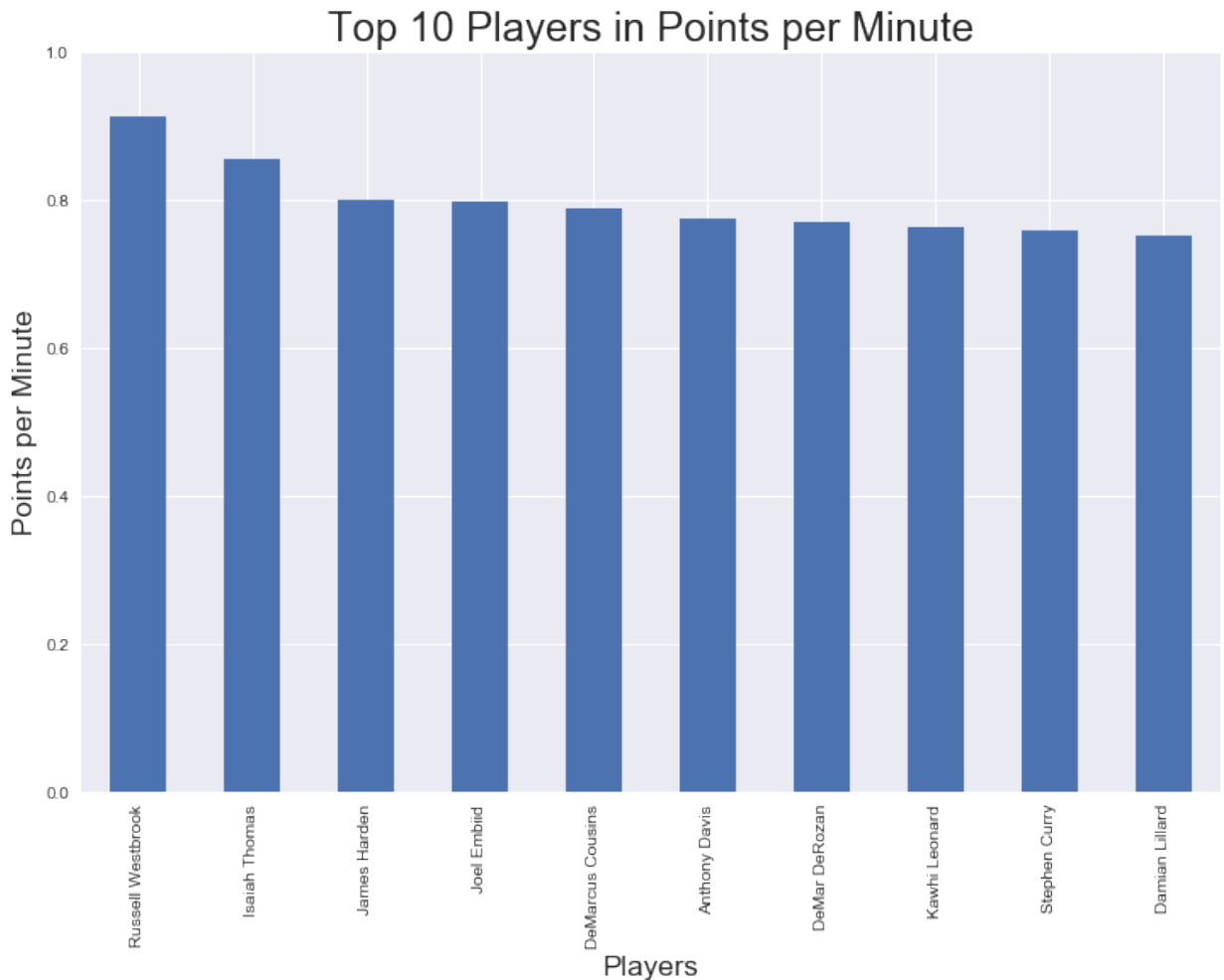
Out[76]:

	Player	Pos	Age	PTS	MP	PTSperMP	Salary
636	Russell Westbrook	PG	28.0	2558.0	2802.0	0.912919	26540100
580	Isaiah Thomas	PG	27.0	2199.0	2569.0	0.855975	6587132
253	James Harden	PG	27.0	2356.0	2947.0	0.799457	26540100
177	Joel Embiid	C	22.0	627.0	786.0	0.797710	4826160
137	DeMarcus Cousins	C	26.0	1942.0	2465.0	0.787830	16957900
149	Anthony Davis	C	23.0	2099.0	2708.0	0.775111	22116750
157	DeMar DeRozan	SG	27.0	2020.0	2620.0	0.770992	26540100
370	Kawhi Leonard	SF	25.0	1888.0	2474.0	0.763137	17638063
147	Stephen Curry	PG	28.0	1999.0	2638.0	0.757771	12112359
377	Damian Lillard	PG	26.0	2024.0	2694.0	0.751299	24328425

NOTES: This shows the players who score most efficiently. Isaiah Thomas and Joel Embiid are in the top 10, but make less than 10 million, showing that they may be undervalued and more valuable to a team than what appears. Joel Embiid also adds future value, as he is only 22 years old.

```
In [77]: fig,ax = plt.subplots()
Top10PTSperMin.plot.bar(x='Player',y='PTSperMP',ax=ax,figsize=(12,8),
legend = False)
ax.set_ylim(0,1)
ax.set_title('Top 10 Players in Points per Minute',size=24)
ax.set_ylabel('Points per Minute',size = 17)
ax.set_xlabel('Players',size = 17)
```

```
Out[77]: Text(0.5, 0, 'Players')
```



Low Salary, High Points per Minute

```
In [78]: stats17['PTSperMP'] = stats17['PTS']/stats17['MP'].
PTSperMin2= (stats17.loc[stats17['MP'] > 164][stats17['Salary'] < stat
s17['Salary'].median()]).
[[ 'Player', 'Pos', 'Age', 'PTS', 'MP', 'PTSperMP', 'Salary']].
Top10PTSperMin2 = PTSperMin2.sort_values('PTSperMP', ascending = False
).head(10).
Top10PTSperMin2
# We filtered our data to only include players with more than 2 minute
s played per game in order for the most accurate results.
```

```
//anaconda3/lib/python3.7/site-packages/ipykernel_launcher.py:2: Use
rWarning: Boolean Series key will be reindexed to match DataFrame in
dex.
```

Out[78]:

	Player	Pos	Age	PTS	MP	PTSperMP	Salary
396	C.J. McCollum	SG	25.0	1837.0	2796.0	0.657010	3219579
22	Giannis Antetokounmpo	SF	22.0	1832.0	2845.0	0.643937	2995421
407	JaVale McGee	C	29.0	472.0	739.0	0.638701	1403611
380	Shawn Long	C	24.0	148.0	234.0	0.632479	96969
73	Devin Booker	SG	20.0	1726.0	2730.0	0.632234	2223600
143	Jordan Crawford	SG	28.0	267.0	442.0	0.604072	234915
333	Nikola Jokic	C	21.0	1221.0	2038.0	0.599117	1358500
529	Dennis Schroder	PG	23.0	1414.0	2485.0	0.569014	2708582
49	Michael Beasley	PF	28.0	528.0	935.0	0.564706	1403611
550	Marreese Speights	C	29.0	711.0	1286.0	0.552877	1403611

NOTES: Shawn Long and Jordan Crawford both play less than 500 minutes but average more than .6 points per minute. This shows that they might deserve to be played more minutes. Shawn Long is 24 and does not even cost \$100,000, so he is a high value player at an unbelievably low cost, who could be good option if a team was looking for role player at Center.

```

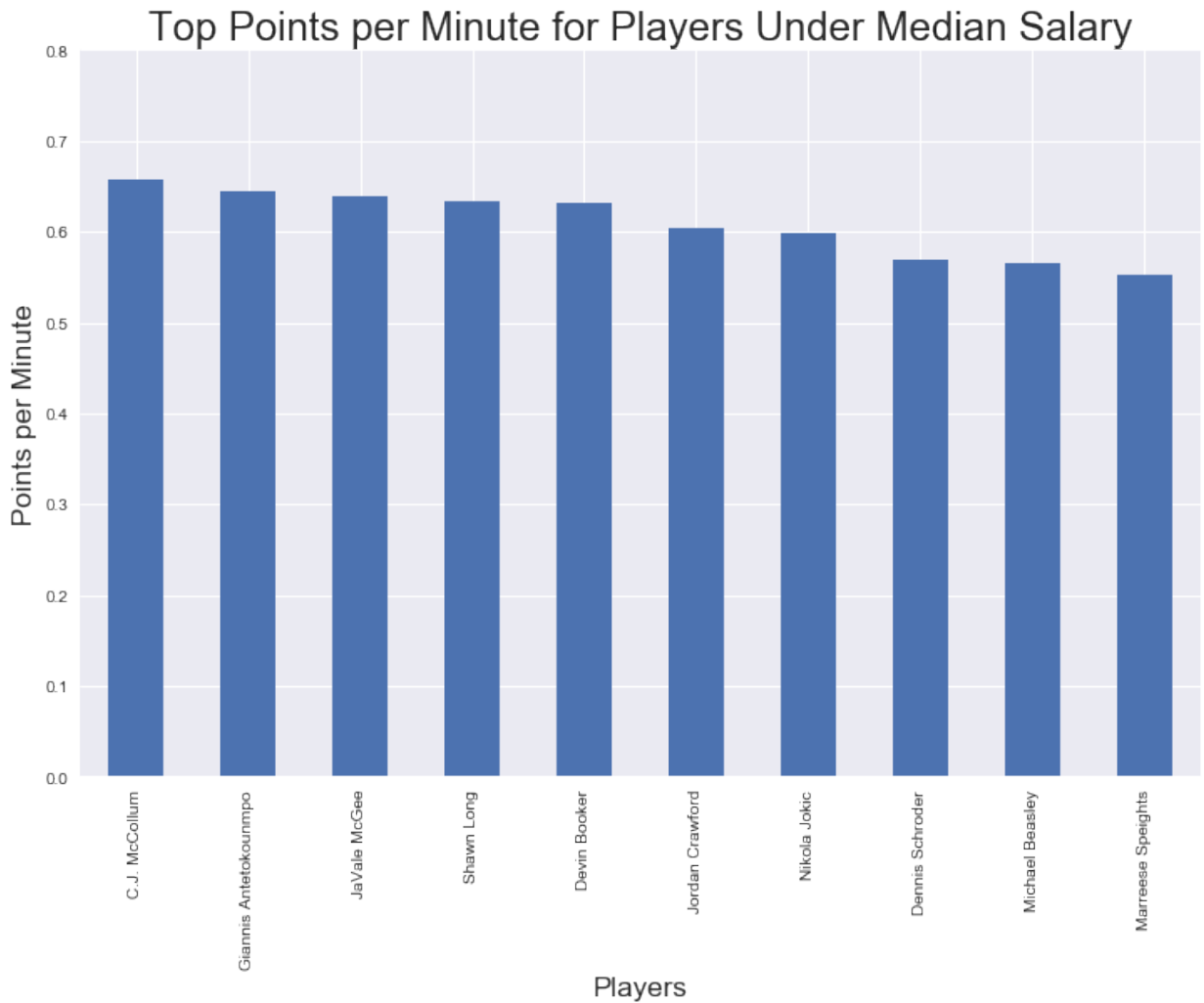
In [79]: fig,ax = plt.subplots()
Top10PTSperMin2.plot.bar(x='Player',y='PTSperMP',ax=ax,figsize=(12,8),
legend = False)
ax.set_ylim(0,.8)
ax.set_title('Top Points per Minute for Players Under Median Salary',s
ize=24)
ax.set_ylabel('Points per Minute',size = 17)
ax.set_xlabel('Players',size = 17)

```

```

Out[79]: Text(0.5, 0, 'Players')

```



Rebounds

Low Minutes, High Rebounds

```
In [80]: LowMinHiTRB = (stats17.loc[stats17['MP'] < stats17['MP'].median()][stats17['TRB'] > stats17['TRB'].median()])
          [['Player', 'Pos', 'Age', 'Tm', 'TRB', 'MP', 'Salary']]).
Top10LowMinHiTRB = LowMinHiTRB.sort_values('TRB', ascending = False).head(10)
Top10LowMinHiTRB
```

```
//anaconda3/lib/python3.7/site-packages/ipykernel_launcher.py:1: Use
rWarning: Boolean Series key will be reindexed to match DataFrame in
dex.
```

```
"""Entry point for launching an IPython kernel.
```

Out[80]:

	Player	Pos	Age	Tm	TRB	MP	Salary
445	Joakim Noah	C	31.0	NYK	402.0	1015.0	17000000
61	Tarik Black	C	25.0	LAL	342.0	1091.0	6191000
45	Aron Baynes	C	30.0	DET	333.0	1163.0	6500000
506	Willie Reed	C	26.0	MIA	332.0	1031.0	1015696
288	Richaun Holmes	C	23.0	PHI	311.0	1193.0	1025831
191	Cristiano Felicio	C	24.0	CHI	311.0	1040.0	874636
413	Salah Mejri	C	30.0	DAL	308.0	905.0	874636
189	Derrick Favors	PF	25.0	UTA	305.0	1186.0	11050000
489	Bobby Portis	PF	21.0	CHI	296.0	1000.0	1453680
270	John Henson	C	26.0	MIL	295.0	1123.0	12517606

NOTES: Richaun Holmes, Christiano Felicio, and Bobby Portis seem to be undervalued and underplayed, as they put up high rebounding numbers despite few minutes and low salaries. Additionally, they are all under 25 years old, adding to their value by promising a potential future return.


```

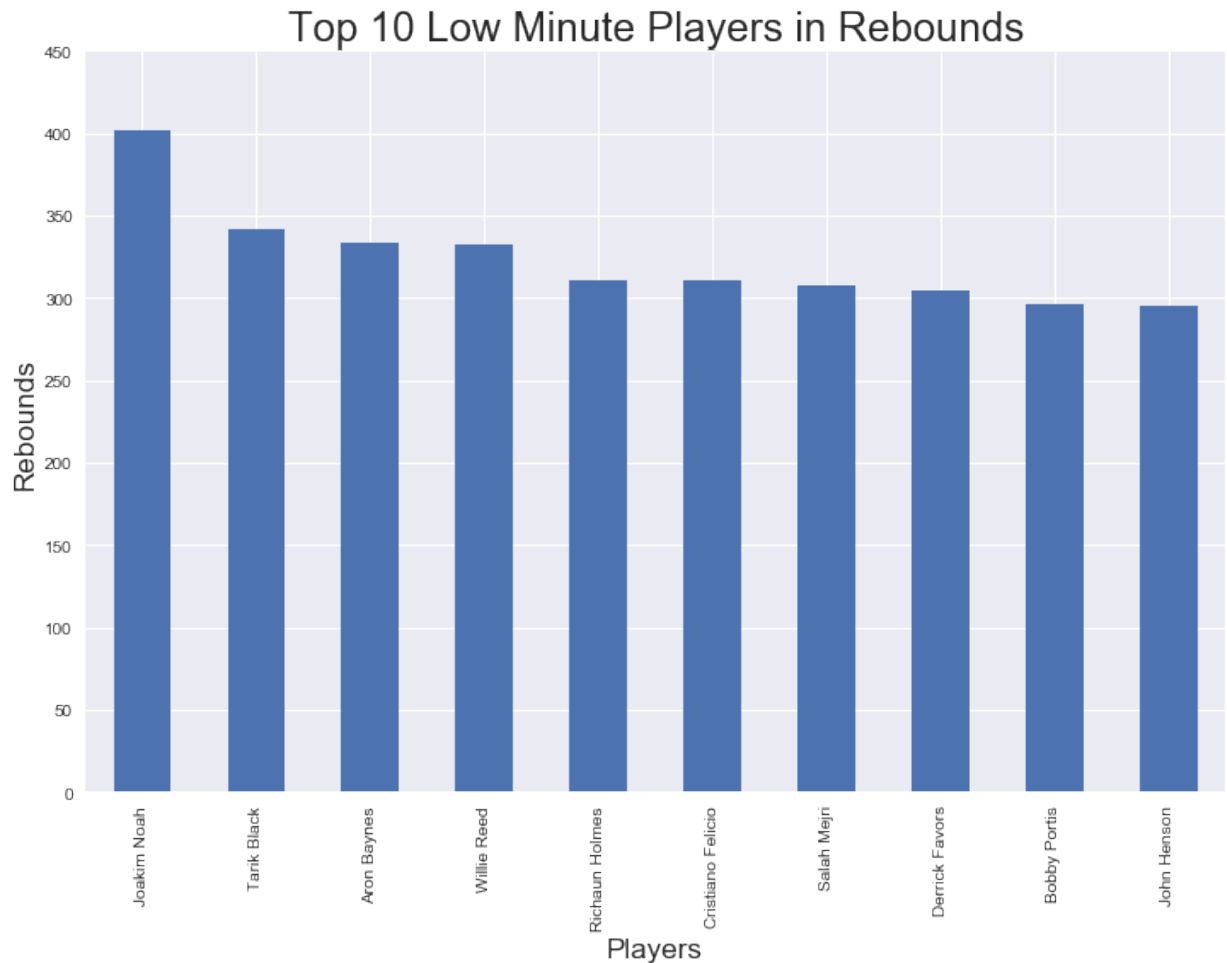
In [81]: fig,ax = plt.subplots()
Top10LowMinHiTRB.plot.bar(x='Player',y='TRB',ax=ax,figsize=(12,8),_leg
end = False).
ax.set_ylim(0,450).
ax.set_title('Top 10 Low Minute Players in Rebounds',size=24).
ax.set_ylabel('Rebounds',size = 17).
ax.set_xlabel('Players',size = 17).

```

```

Out[81]: Text(0.5, 0, 'Players')

```



Low Salary, High Rebounds

```
In [82]: LowSALHiTRB = stats17.loc[stats17['Salary'] < stats17['Salary'].median(
.)][['Player', 'Pos', 'Age', 'TRB', 'Salary']]
Top10LowSALHiTRB = LowSALHiTRB.sort_values('TRB', ascending = False).head(10)
Top10LowSALHiTRB
```

Out[82]:

	Player	Pos	Age	TRB	Salary
226	Rudy Gobert	C	24.0	1035.0	2121288
333	Nikola Jokic	C	21.0	718.0	1358500
22	Giannis Antetokounmpo	SF	22.0	700.0	2995421
160	Gorgui Dieng	PF	27.0	647.0	2348783
7	Steven Adams	C	23.0	615.0	3140517
481	Mason Plumlee	C	26.0	606.0	2328530
604	Myles Turner	C	20.0	587.0	2463840
247	JaMychal Green	PF	26.0	544.0	980431
106	Clint Capela	C	22.0	526.0	1296240
527	Dario Saric	PF	22.0	513.0	2318280

NOTES: Rudy Gobert, Nikola Jokic, Giannis Antetokounmpo, and Myles Turner are very impressive in this chart, as they are all under 25, cost less than \$3 million, and are some of the best rebounders in the league. Therefore, teams should target these players and the others on the list to get high, long-term value for a low cost. Rudy Gobert had by far the highest numbers, and is likely the most valuable on the chart.

```

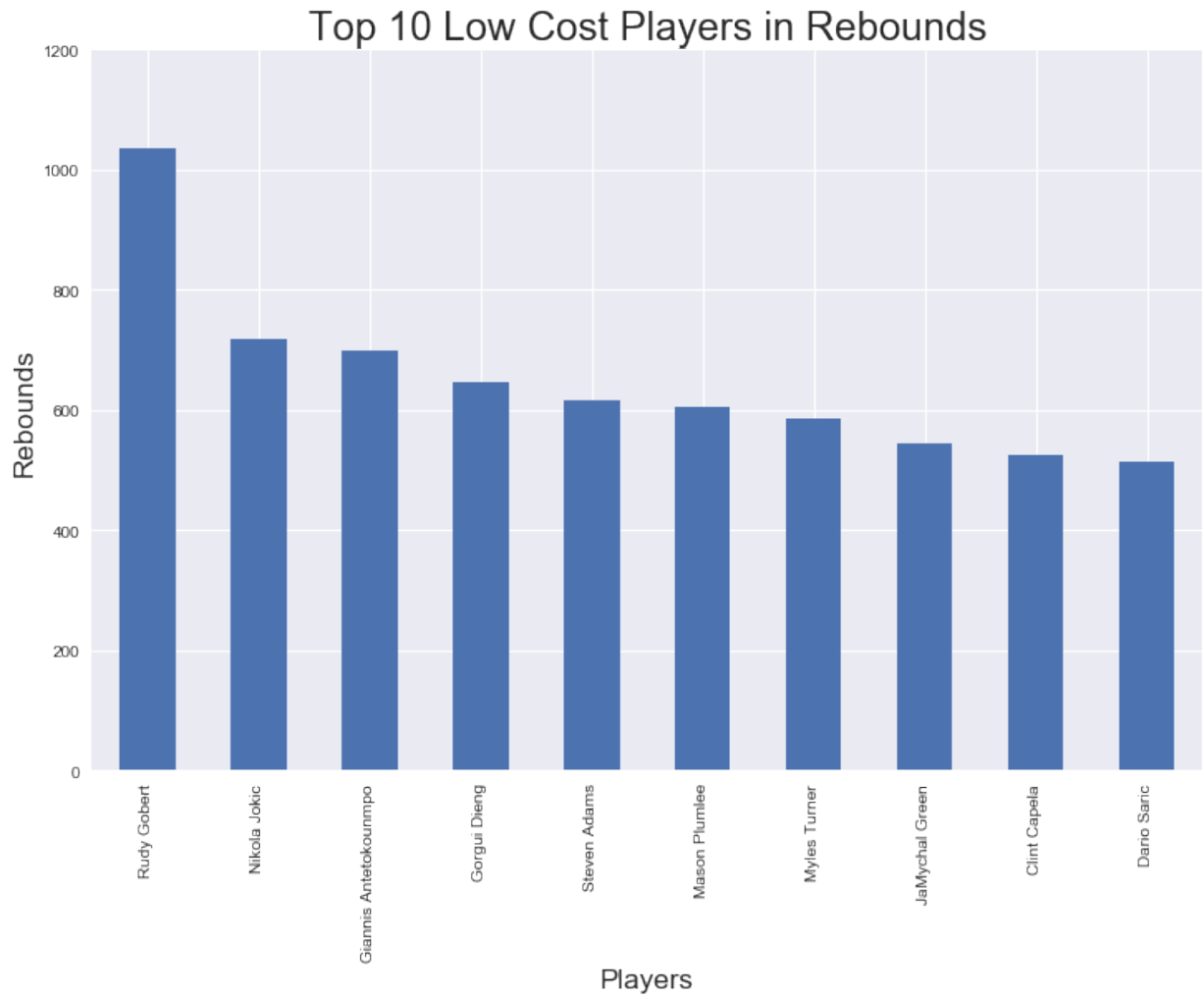
In [83]: fig,ax = plt.subplots()
Top10LowSALHiTRB.plot.bar(x='Player',y='TRB',ax=ax,figsize=(12,8), leg
end = False).
ax.set_ylim(0,1200).
ax.set_title('Top 10 Low Cost Players in Rebounds',size=24).
ax.set_ylabel('Rebounds',size = 17).
ax.set_xlabel('Players',size = 17).

```

```

Out[83]: Text(0.5, 0, 'Players').

```



Rebounds per Minute (Rebounding Efficiency)

```
In [84]: stats17['TRBperMP'] = stats17['TRB']/stats17['MP'].
TRBperMin= stats17.loc[stats17['MP'] > 164][['Player', 'Pos', 'Age', 'Tm'
, 'TRB', 'MP', 'TRBperMP', 'Salary']].
Top10TRBperMin = TRBperMin.sort_values('TRBperMP', ascending = False).
head(10)
Top10TRBperMin
# We filtered our data to only include players with more than 2 minute
s played per game in order for the most accurate results.
```

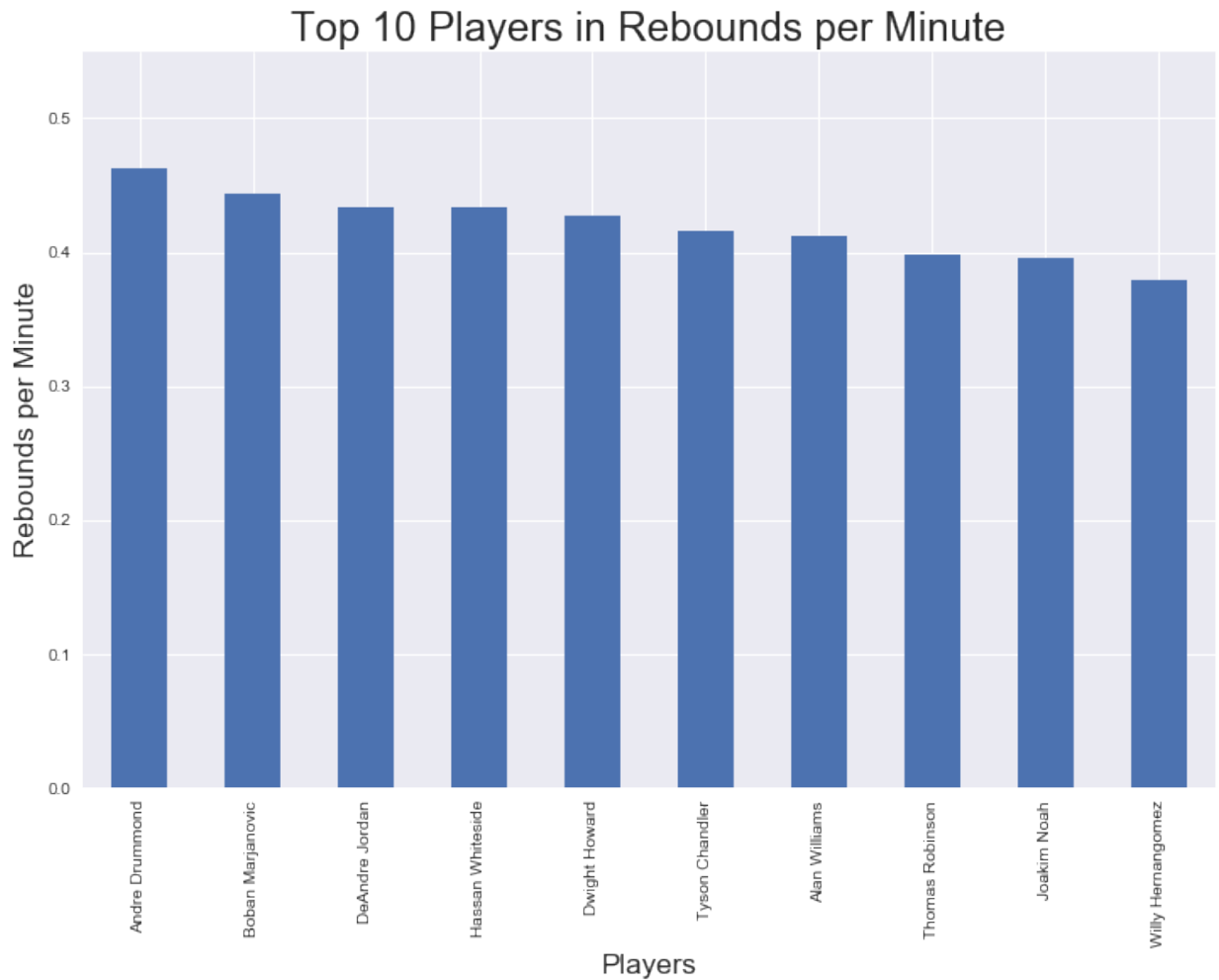
Out[84]:

	Player	Pos	Age	Tm	TRB	MP	TRBperMP	Salary
164	Andre Drummond	C	23.0	DET	1116.0	2409.0	0.463263	22116750
391	Boban Marjanovic	C	28.0	DET	130.0	293.0	0.443686	7000000
345	DeAndre Jordan	C	28.0	LAC	1114.0	2570.0	0.433463	21165675
639	Hassan Whiteside	C	27.0	MIA	1088.0	2513.0	0.432949	22116750
292	Dwight Howard	C	31.0	ATL	940.0	2199.0	0.427467	23180275
119	Tyson Chandler	C	34.0	PHO	539.0	1298.0	0.415254	12415000
642	Alan Williams	C	24.0	PHO	292.0	708.0	0.412429	874636
513	Thomas Robinson	PF	25.0	LAL	223.0	560.0	0.398214	1050961
445	Joakim Noah	C	31.0	NYK	402.0	1015.0	0.396059	17000000
272	Willy Hernangomez	C	22.0	NYK	502.0	1324.0	0.379154	1375000

NOTES: Alan Williams and Willy Hernangomez are very high value players, as they are top 10 in rebounds per minute while being under 25 years old and costing less than \$1.5 million. Willy Hernangomez proved he could perform at this rate even playing 1324 minutes, further emphasizing the idea that he is undervalued.

```
In [85]: fig,ax = plt.subplots()
Top10TRBperMin.plot.bar(x='Player',y='TRBperMP',ax=ax,figsize=(12,8),
legend = False)
ax.set_ylim(0,0.55)
ax.set_title('Top 10 Players in Rebounds per Minute',size=24)
ax.set_ylabel('Rebounds per Minute',size = 17)
ax.set_xlabel('Players',size = 17)
```

```
Out[85]: Text(0.5, 0, 'Players')
```



Low Salary, High Rebounds per Minute

```
In [86]: stats17['TRBperMP'] = stats17['TRB']/stats17['MP'].
TRBperMin2= (stats17.loc[stats17['MP'] > 164][stats17['Salary'] < stat
s17['Salary'].median()]).
[['Player', 'Pos', 'Age', 'PTS', 'MP', 'TRBperMP', 'Salary']]).
Top10TRBperMin2 = TRBperMin2.sort_values('TRBperMP', ascending = False
).head(10)
Top10TRBperMin2
# We filtered our data to only include players with more than 2 minute
s played per game in order for the most accurate results.
```

```
//anaconda3/lib/python3.7/site-packages/ipykernel_launcher.py:2: Use
rWarning: Boolean Series key will be reindexed to match DataFrame in
dex.
```

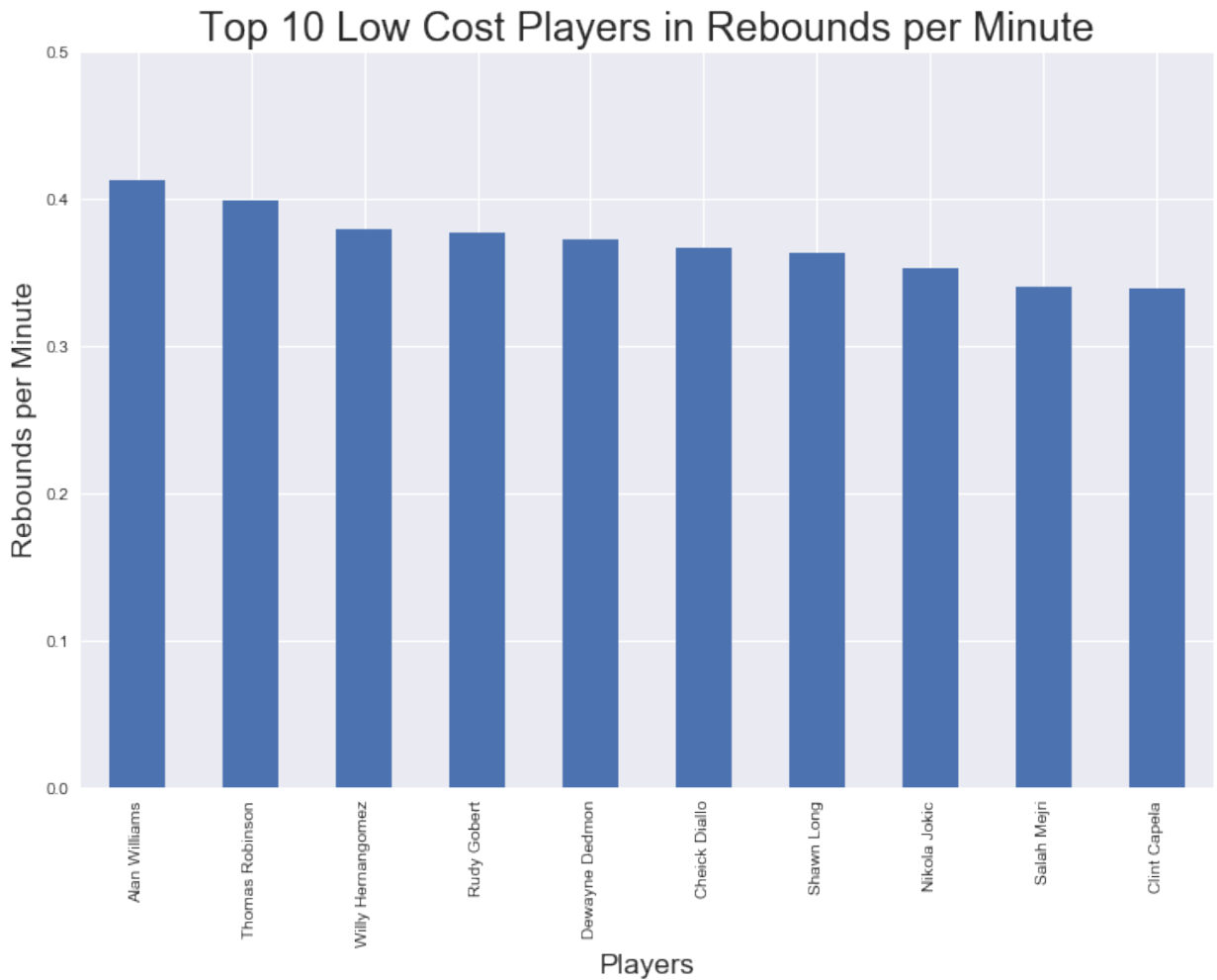
Out[86]:

	Player	Pos	Age	PTS	MP	TRBperMP	Salary
642	Alan Williams	C	24.0	346.0	708.0	0.412429	874636
513	Thomas Robinson	PF	25.0	241.0	560.0	0.398214	1050961
272	Willy Hernangomez	C	22.0	587.0	1324.0	0.379154	1375000
226	Rudy Gobert	C	24.0	1137.0	2744.0	0.377187	2121288
152	Dewayne Dedmon	C	27.0	387.0	1330.0	0.372180	2898000
158	Cheick Diallo	PF	20.0	87.0	199.0	0.366834	543471
380	Shawn Long	C	24.0	148.0	234.0	0.363248	96969
333	Nikola Jokic	C	21.0	1221.0	2038.0	0.352306	1358500
413	Salah Mejri	C	30.0	213.0	905.0	0.340331	874636
106	Clint Capela	C	22.0	818.0	1551.0	0.339136	1296240

NOTES: This chart shows very high value players, as they are able to put up impressive numbers while all costing less than \$3 million and most of which are younger than 25 years old. Teams should target these players to boost their rebounding numbers without spending much money and creating a long term value with young players.

```
In [87]: fig,ax = plt.subplots()
Top10TRBperMin2.plot.bar(x='Player',y='TRBperMP',ax=ax,figsize=(12,8),
legend = False)
ax.set_ylim(0,0.5)
ax.set_title('Top 10 Low Cost Players in Rebounds per Minute',size=24)
ax.set_ylabel('Rebounds per Minute',size = 17)
ax.set_xlabel('Players',size = 17)
```

```
Out[87]: Text(0.5, 0, 'Players')
```



Usage %

Low Minutes, High USG%

```
In [88]: LowMinHiUSG = (stats17.loc[stats17['MP'] < stats17['MP'].median()][stats17['MP'] > 164].
           [stats17['USG%'] > stats17['USG%'].median()][['Player',
           'Pos', 'Age', 'Tm', 'USG%', 'MP', 'Salary']]).
#Adjusted for players who barely played and saw high usage rate as a result
Top10LowMinHiUSG = LowMinHiUSG.sort_values('USG%', ascending = False).
head(10)
Top10LowMinHiUSG
```

```
//anaconda3/lib/python3.7/site-packages/ipykernel_launcher.py:1: Use
rWarning: Boolean Series key will be reindexed to match DataFrame in
dex.
```

```
"""Entry point for launching an IPython kernel.
```

```
//anaconda3/lib/python3.7/site-packages/ipykernel_launcher.py:2: Use
rWarning: Boolean Series key will be reindexed to match DataFrame in
dex.
```

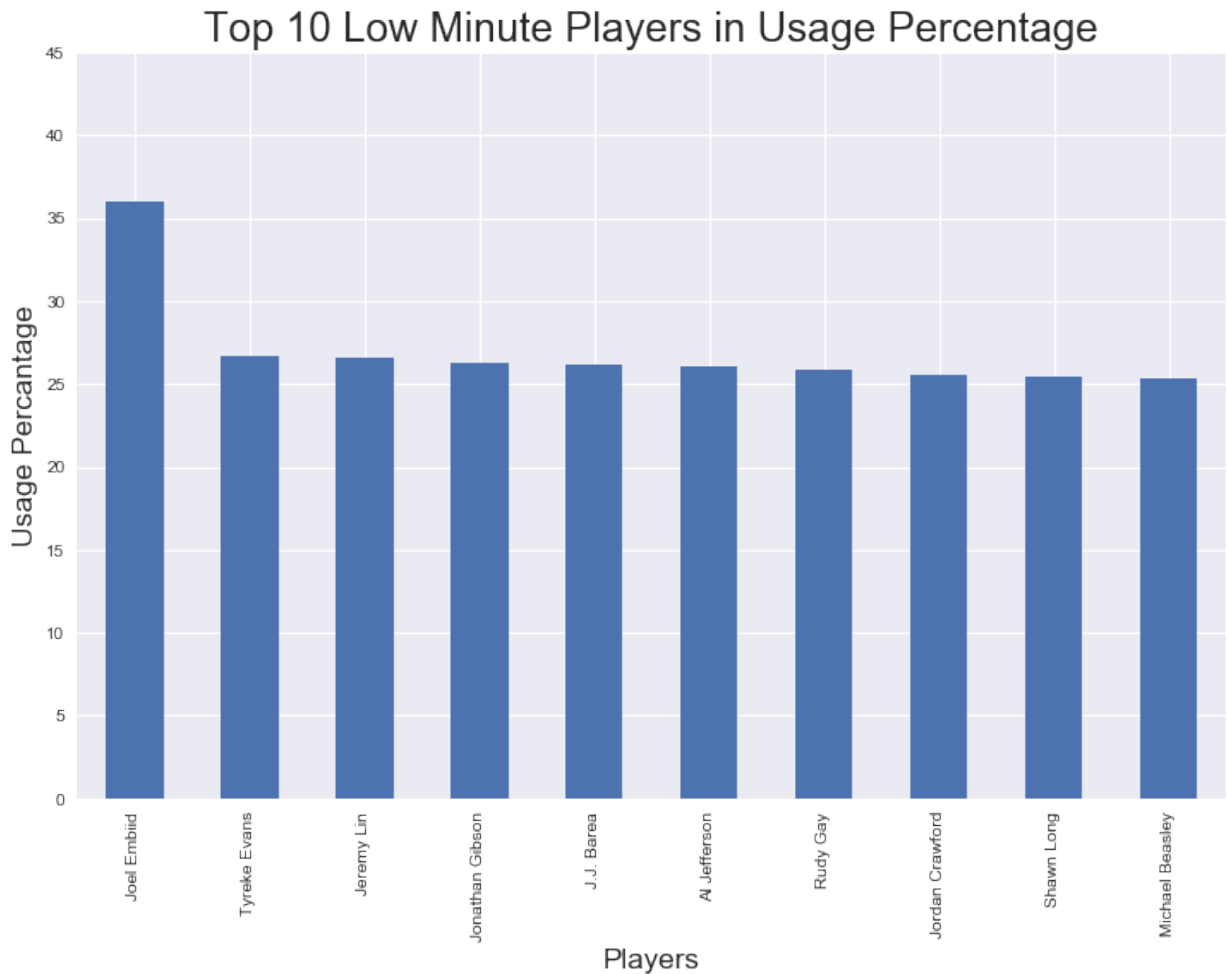
Out[88]:

	Player	Pos	Age	Tm	USG%	MP	Salary
177	Joel Embiid	C	22.0	PHI	36.0	786.0	4826160
182	Tyreke Evans	SF	27.0	TOT	26.7	788.0	10661286
378	Jeremy Lin	PG	28.0	BRK	26.6	883.0	11483254
221	Jonathan Gibson	PG	29.0	DAL	26.3	231.0	680937
33	J.J. Barea	PG	32.0	DAL	26.2	771.0	4096950
316	Al Jefferson	C	32.0	IND	26.1	931.0	10230179
213	Rudy Gay	SF	30.0	SAC	25.8	1013.0	13333333
143	Jordan Crawford	SG	28.0	NOP	25.5	442.0	234915
380	Shawn Long	C	24.0	PHI	25.4	234.0	96969
49	Michael Beasley	PF	28.0	MIL	25.3	935.0	1403611

NOTES: This chart shows the players who played fewer minutes than 50% of the league who were used the most by their respective teams while on the court, suggesting that they may deserve more minutes. Some key players on here are Joel Embiid and Shawn Long, as they produced these numbers while being under age 25. Additionally, Shawn Long, Jordan Crawford, and Jonathan Gibson are all under \$1,000,000, showing that they give a high return on investment on their salaries for their teams.


```
In [89]: fig,ax = plt.subplots()
Top10LowMinHiUSG.plot.bar(x='Player',y='USG%',ax=ax,figsize=(12,8),leg
end=False)
ax.set_ylim(0,45)
ax.set_title('Top 10 Low Minute Players in Usage Percentage',size=24)
ax.set_ylabel('Usage Percentage',size = 17)
ax.set_xlabel('Players',size = 17)
```

```
Out[89]: Text(0.5, 0, 'Players')
```



Low Salary, High Usage

```
In [90]: LowSALHiUSG = (stats17.loc[stats17['Salary'] < stats17['Salary'].median()][stats17['MP'] > 164]
          [['Player', 'Pos', 'Age', 'USG%', 'Salary']]).
Top10LowSALHiUSG = LowSALHiUSG.sort_values('USG%', ascending = False).head(10)
Top10LowSALHiUSG
```

```
//anaconda3/lib/python3.7/site-packages/ipykernel_launcher.py:1: Use
rWarning: Boolean Series key will be reindexed to match DataFrame in
dex.
```

```
"""Entry point for launching an IPython kernel.
```

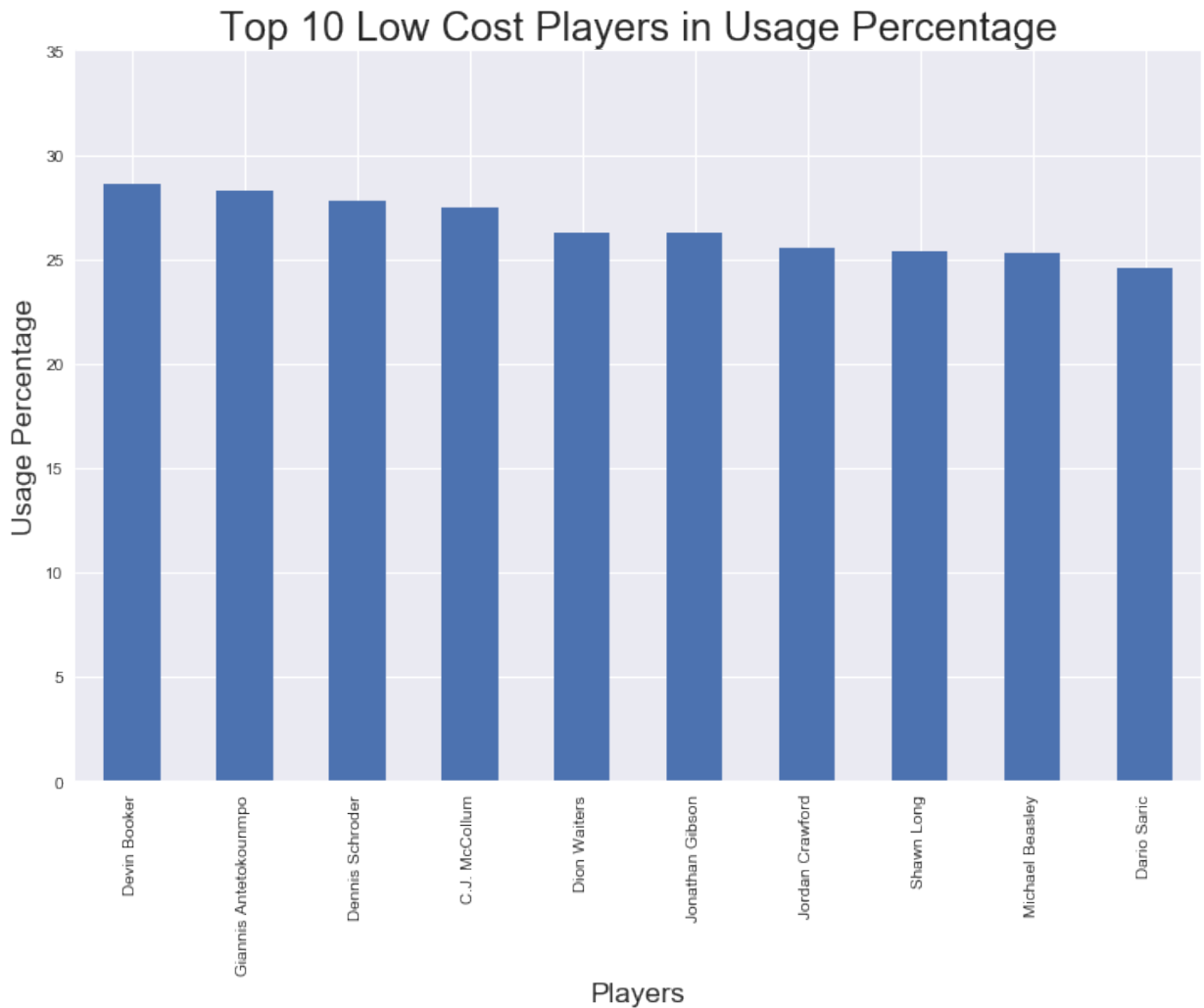
Out[90]:

	Player	Pos	Age	USG%	Salary
73	Devin Booker	SG	20.0	28.6	2223600
22	Giannis Antetokounmpo	SF	22.0	28.3	2995421
529	Dennis Schroder	PG	23.0	27.8	2708582
396	C.J. McCollum	SG	25.0	27.5	3219579
620	Dion Waiters	SG	25.0	26.3	2898000
221	Jonathan Gibson	PG	29.0	26.3	680937
143	Jordan Crawford	SG	28.0	25.5	234915
380	Shawn Long	C	24.0	25.4	96969
49	Michael Beasley	PF	28.0	25.3	1403611
527	Dario Saric	PF	22.0	24.6	2318280

NOTES: This chart shows the usage percentages for players below the median salary. Devon Booker and Giannis Antetokounmpo are extremely valuable, as they are 20 and 22 respectively and have usage rates above 28%.

```
In [91]: fig,ax = plt.subplots()
Top10LowSALHiUSG.plot.bar(x='Player',y='USG%',ax=ax,figsize=(12,8), legend = False)
ax.set_ylim(0,35)
ax.set_title('Top 10 Low Cost Players in Usage Percentage',size=24)
ax.set_ylabel('Usage Percentage',size = 17)
ax.set_xlabel('Players',size = 17)
```

```
Out[91]: Text(0.5, 0, 'Players')
```



PER

Low Minutes, High PER

```
In [92]: LowMinHiPER = (stats17.loc[stats17['MP'] < stats17['MP'].median()][stats17['MP'] > 164].
_____ [stats17['PER'] > stats17['PER'].median()][['Player', 'Pos', 'Age', 'Tm', 'PER', 'MP', 'Salary']]).
#Adjusted for players who barely played and saw high PER as a result
Top10LowMinHiPER = LowMinHiPER.sort_values('PER', ascending = False).head(10)
Top10LowMinHiPER
```

//anaconda3/lib/python3.7/site-packages/ipykernel_launcher.py:1: Use
rWarning: Boolean Series key will be reindexed to match DataFrame in
dex.

"""Entry point for launching an IPython kernel.

//anaconda3/lib/python3.7/site-packages/ipykernel_launcher.py:2: Use
rWarning: Boolean Series key will be reindexed to match DataFrame in
dex.

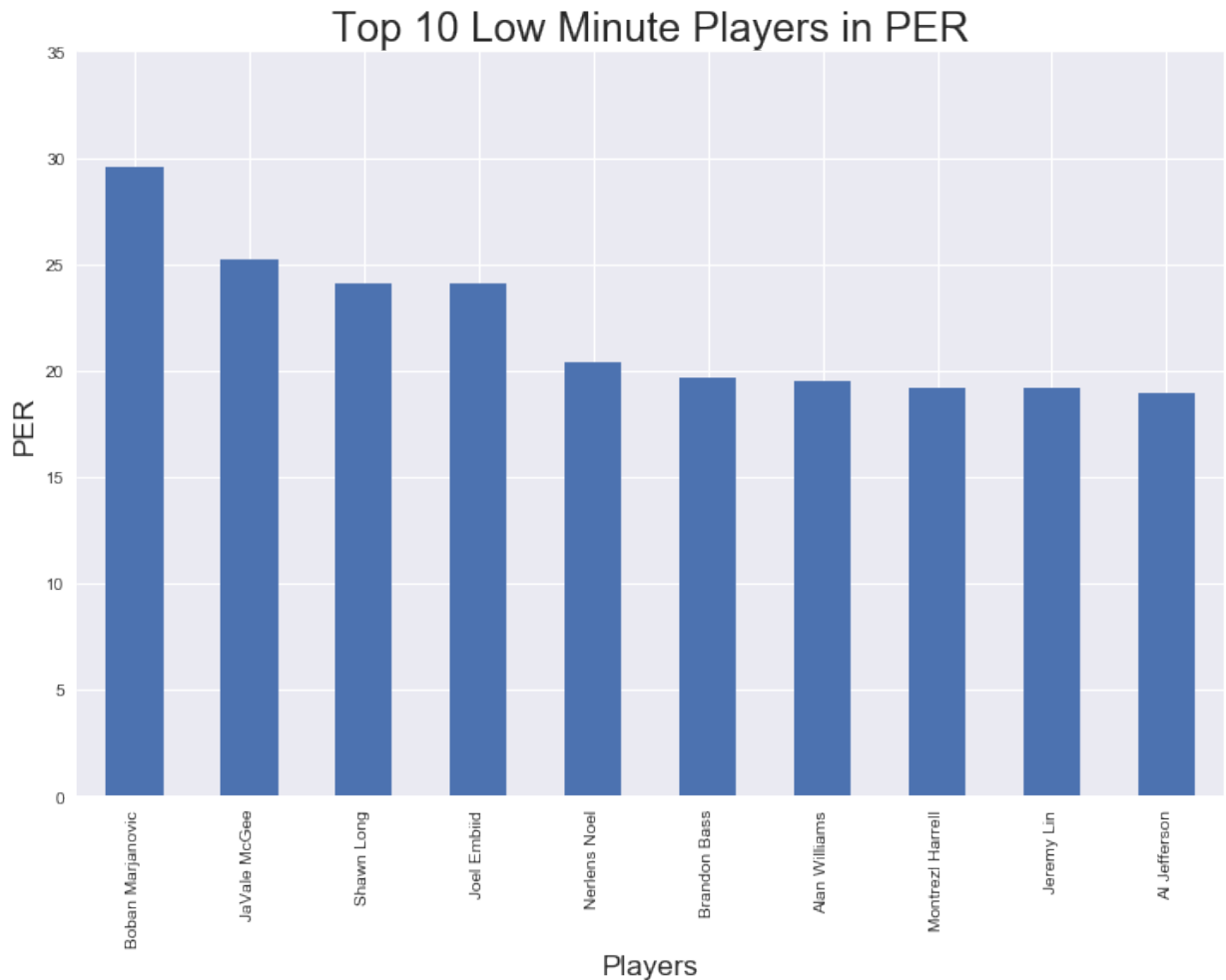
Out[92]:

	Player	Pos	Age	Tm	PER	MP	Salary
391	Boban Marjanovic	C	28.0	DET	29.6	293.0	7000000
407	JaVale McGee	C	29.0	GSW	25.2	739.0	1403611
380	Shawn Long	C	24.0	PHI	24.1	234.0	96969
177	Joel Embiid	C	22.0	PHI	24.1	786.0	4826160
446	Nerlens Noel	C	22.0	TOT	20.4	1047.0	4384490
42	Brandon Bass	PF	31.0	LAC	19.7	577.0	1551659
642	Alan Williams	C	24.0	PHO	19.5	708.0	874636
256	Montrezl Harrell	C	23.0	HOU	19.2	1064.0	1045000
378	Jeremy Lin	PG	28.0	BRK	19.2	883.0	11483254
316	Al Jefferson	C	32.0	IND	18.9	931.0	10230179

NOTES: This chart shows players who played less than the median amount of minutes but provided a high PER during their time on the court. Shawn Long, Alan Williams, and Montrezl Harrell are all highly valuable players, as they provide high efficiency ratings while costing less than \$1.5 million and under 25 years old.

```
In [93]: fig,ax = plt.subplots()
Top10LowMinHiPER.plot.bar(x='Player',y='PER',ax=ax,figsize=(12,8), leg
end = False)
ax.set_ylim(0,35)
ax.set_title('Top 10 Low Minute Players in PER',size=24)
ax.set_ylabel('PER',size = 17)
ax.set_xlabel('Players',size = 17)
```

```
Out[93]: Text(0.5, 0, 'Players')
```



Low Salary, High PER

```
In [94]: LowSALHiPER = (stats17.loc[stats17['Salary'] < stats17['Salary'].median()][stats17['MP'] > 164]
          [stats17['PER'] > stats17['PER'].median()][['Player', 'Pos', 'Age', 'Tm', 'PER', 'MP', 'Salary']]).
#Adjusted for players who barely played and saw high PER as a result
Top10LowSALHiPER = LowSALHiPER.sort_values('PER', ascending = False).head(10)
Top10LowSALHiPER
```

```
//anaconda3/lib/python3.7/site-packages/ipykernel_launcher.py:1: Use
rWarning: Boolean Series key will be reindexed to match DataFrame in
dex.
```

```
"""Entry point for launching an IPython kernel.
```

```
//anaconda3/lib/python3.7/site-packages/ipykernel_launcher.py:2: Use
rWarning: Boolean Series key will be reindexed to match DataFrame in
dex.
```

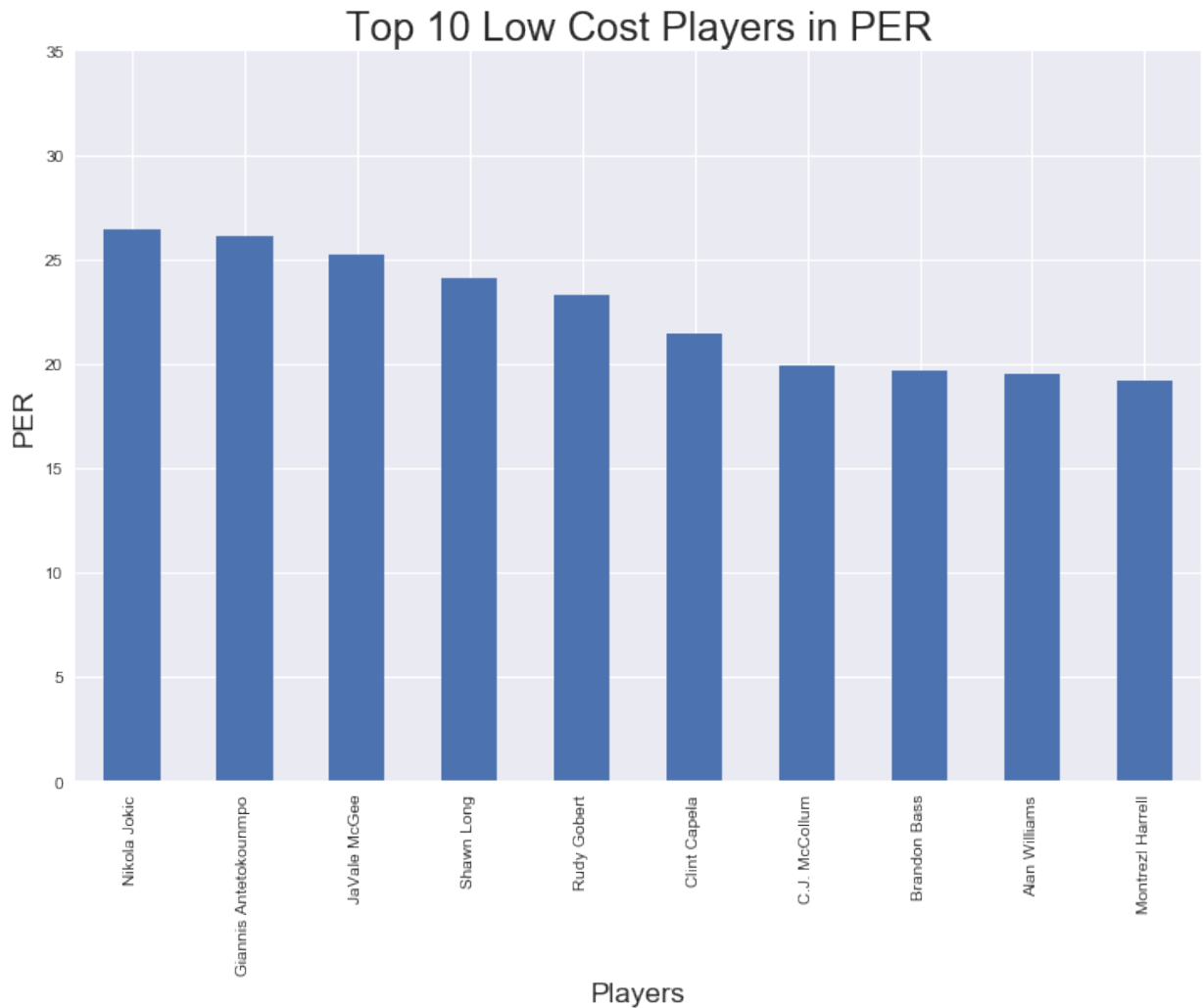
Out[94]:

	Player	Pos	Age	Tm	PER	MP	Salary
333	Nikola Jokic	C	21.0	DEN	26.4	2038.0	1358500
22	Giannis Antetokounmpo	SF	22.0	MIL	26.1	2845.0	2995421
407	JaVale McGee	C	29.0	GSW	25.2	739.0	1403611
380	Shawn Long	C	24.0	PHI	24.1	234.0	96969
226	Rudy Gobert	C	24.0	UTA	23.3	2744.0	2121288
106	Clint Capela	C	22.0	HOU	21.4	1551.0	1296240
396	C.J. McCollum	SG	25.0	POR	19.9	2796.0	3219579
42	Brandon Bass	PF	31.0	LAC	19.7	577.0	1551659
642	Alan Williams	C	24.0	PHO	19.5	708.0	874636
256	Montrezl Harrell	C	23.0	HOU	19.2	1064.0	1045000

NOTES: This chart shows the players who are inexpensive, but offer a very high PER. The players on this chart are low cost and tend to be young, adding value to a team.

```
In [95]: fig,ax = plt.subplots()
Top10LowSALHiPER.plot.bar(x='Player',y='PER',ax=ax,figsize=(12,8),_leg
end = False)
ax.set_ylim(0,35)
ax.set_title('Top 10 Low Cost Players in PER',size=24)
ax.set_ylabel('PER',size = 17)
ax.set_xlabel('Players',size = 17)
```

```
Out[95]: Text(0.5, 0, 'Players')
```



BPM

Low Minutes, High BPM

```
In [96]: LowMinHiBPM = (stats17.loc[stats17['MP'] < stats17['MP'].median()][stats17['MP'] > 164]
          [stats17['BPM'] > stats17['BPM'].median()][['Player', 'Pos', 'Age', 'Tm', 'BPM', 'MP', 'Salary']]).
#Adjusted for players who barely played and saw high BPM as a result of lack of minutes
Top10LowMinHiBPM = LowMinHiBPM.sort_values('BPM', ascending = False).head(10)
Top10LowMinHiBPM
```

```
//anaconda3/lib/python3.7/site-packages/ipykernel_launcher.py:1: Use
rWarning: Boolean Series key will be reindexed to match DataFrame in
dex.
```

```
"""Entry point for launching an IPython kernel.
```

```
//anaconda3/lib/python3.7/site-packages/ipykernel_launcher.py:2: Use
rWarning: Boolean Series key will be reindexed to match DataFrame in
dex.
```

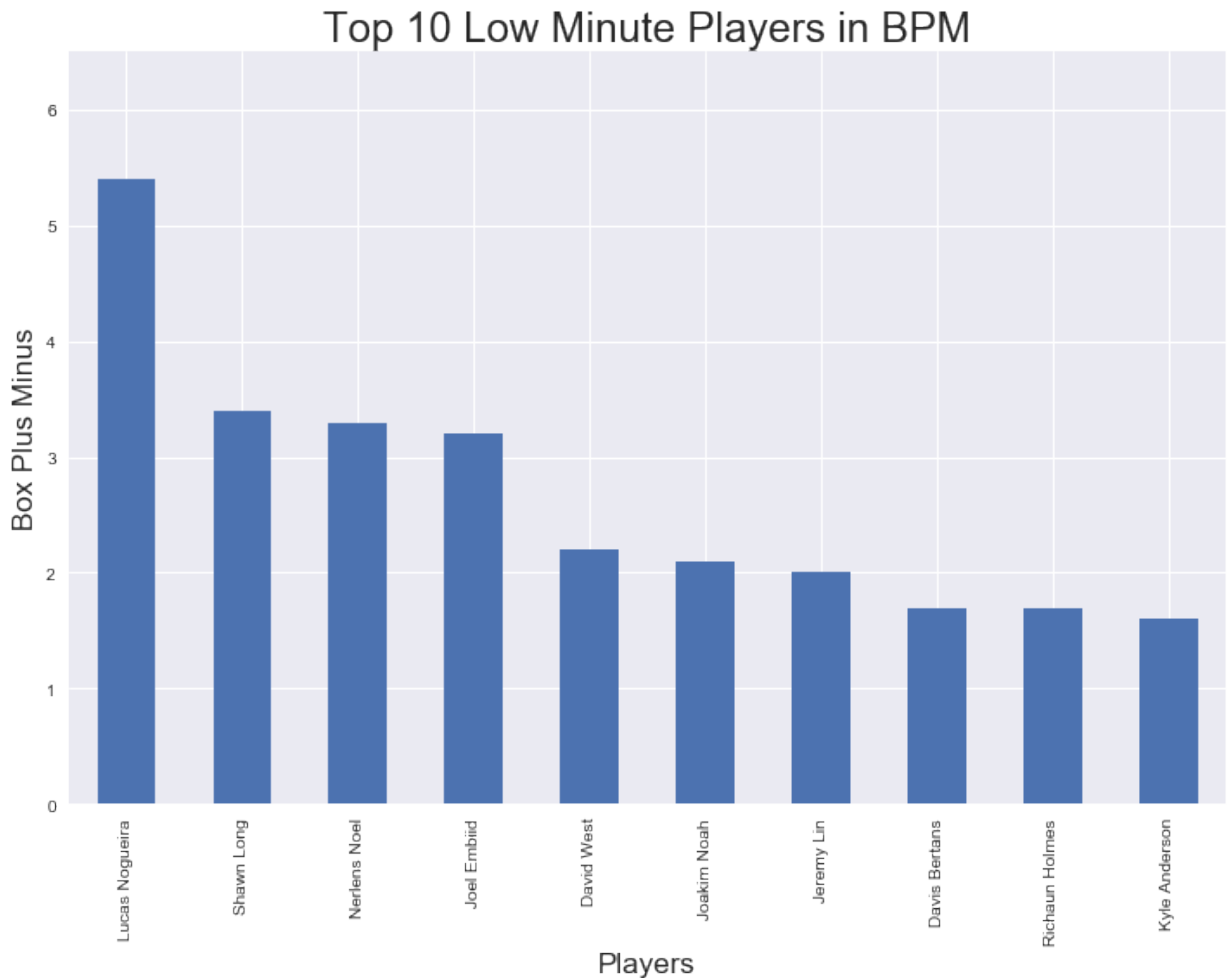
Out[96]:

	Player	Pos	Age	Tm	BPM	MP	Salary
449	Lucas Nogueira	C	24.0	TOR	5.4	1088.0	1921320
380	Shawn Long	C	24.0	PHI	3.4	234.0	96969
446	Nerlens Noel	C	22.0	TOT	3.3	1047.0	4384490
177	Joel Embiid	C	22.0	PHI	3.2	786.0	4826160
635	David West	C	36.0	GSW	2.2	854.0	1551659
445	Joakim Noah	C	31.0	NYK	2.1	1015.0	17000000
378	Jeremy Lin	PG	28.0	BRK	2.0	883.0	11483254
57	Davis Bertans	PF	24.0	SAS	1.7	808.0	543471
288	Richaun Holmes	C	23.0	PHI	1.7	1193.0	1025831
20	Kyle Anderson	SG	23.0	SAS	1.6	1020.0	1192080

NOTES: Despite low minutes played, Lucas Nogueira, Shawn Long, Nerlens Noel, and Joel Embiid all posted high BPMs, and being under 25 years old, they offer very high value to their teams.


```
In [97]: fig,ax = plt.subplots()  
Top10LowMinHiBPM.plot.bar(x='Player',y='BPM',ax=ax,figsize=(12,8), leg  
end = False).  
ax.set_ylim(0,6.5).  
ax.set_title('Top 10 Low Minute Players in BPM',size=24).  
ax.set_ylabel('Box Plus Minus',size = 17).  
ax.set_xlabel('Players',size = 17).
```

```
Out[97]: Text(0.5, 0, 'Players')
```



Low Salary, High BPM

```
In [98]: LowSALHiBPM = (stats17.loc[stats17['Salary'] < stats17['Salary'].median()][stats17['MP'] > 164]
           [stats17['BPM'] > stats17['BPM'].median()][['Player', 'Pos', 'Age', 'Tm', 'BPM', 'MP', 'Salary']]).
#Adjusted for players who barely played and saw high BPM as a result of lack of minutes
Top10LowSALHiBPM = LowSALHiBPM.sort_values('BPM', ascending = False).head(10)
Top10LowSALHiBPM
```

```
//anaconda3/lib/python3.7/site-packages/ipykernel_launcher.py:1: Use
rWarning: Boolean Series key will be reindexed to match DataFrame in
dex.
```

```
"""Entry point for launching an IPython kernel.
```

```
//anaconda3/lib/python3.7/site-packages/ipykernel_launcher.py:2: Use
rWarning: Boolean Series key will be reindexed to match DataFrame in
dex.
```

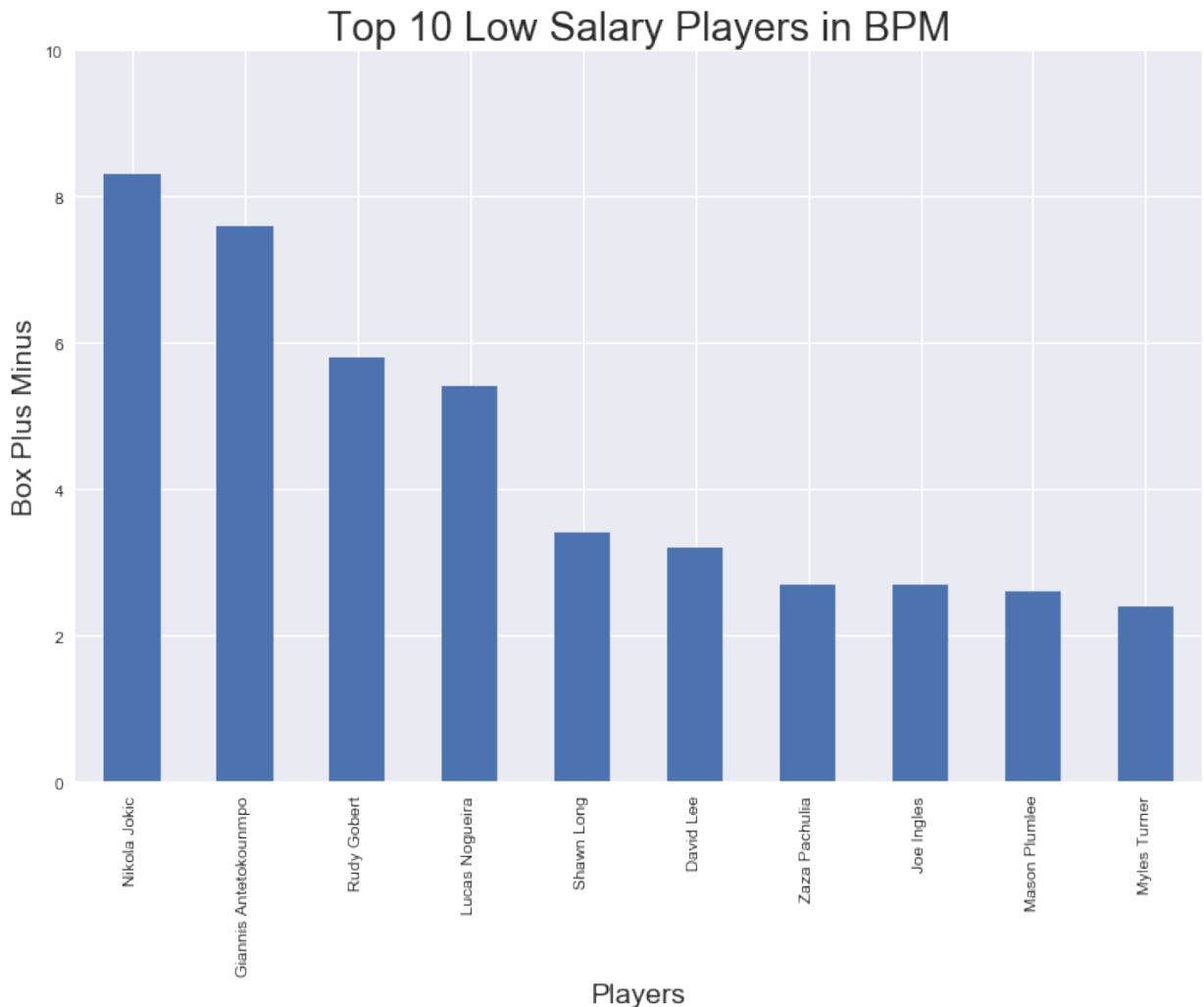
Out[98]:

	Player	Pos	Age	Tm	BPM	MP	Salary
333	Nikola Jokic	C	21.0	DEN	8.3	2038.0	1358500
22	Giannis Antetokounmpo	SF	22.0	MIL	7.6	2845.0	2995421
226	Rudy Gobert	C	24.0	UTA	5.8	2744.0	2121288
449	Lucas Nogueira	C	24.0	TOR	5.4	1088.0	1921320
380	Shawn Long	C	24.0	PHI	3.4	234.0	96969
368	David Lee	PF	33.0	SAS	3.2	1477.0	1551659
463	Zaza Pachulia	C	32.0	GSW	2.7	1268.0	2898000
306	Joe Ingles	SF	29.0	UTA	2.7	1972.0	2250000
481	Mason Plumlee	C	26.0	TOT	2.6	2148.0	2328530
604	Myles Turner	C	20.0	IND	2.4	2541.0	2463840

NOTES: This chart shows low cost players with the highest BPMs. Nikola Jokic and Giannis Antetokounmpo posted extremely high numbers, and provide very high value to teams given their young age and low salaries.

```
In [99]: fig,ax = plt.subplots()
Top10LowSALHiBPM.plot.bar(x='Player',y='BPM',ax=ax,figsize=(12,8), leg
end = False)
ax.set_ylim(0,10)
ax.set_title('Top 10 Low Salary Players in BPM',size=24)
ax.set_ylabel('Box Plus Minus',size = 17)
ax.set_xlabel('Players',size = 17)
```

```
Out[99]: Text(0.5, 0, 'Players')
```



Model for Valuation of Players

Based off the correlation coefficients to win share, we weighted different statistics to determine the most valuable players. We then compared our model with previous years to assess its accuracy, and further compared player values given salaries and positions.

```
In [100]: stats17['Value'] = ((stats17['BPM']*0.8645+stats17['PER']*0.5245+stats17['USG%']*0.2532+stats17['PTS']*0.0052+stats17['AST']*0.0104+stats17['TRB']*0.0103+stats17['STL']*0.0583+stats17['BLK']*0.0452)/8).
```

```
In [115]: statsVal = stats17.sort_values('Value', ascending = False).reset_index(drop = True).statsVal[['Player', 'Pos', 'Age', 'Salary', 'Value']].head(20).
```

Out[115]:

	Player	Pos	Age	Salary	Value
0	Russell Westbrook	PG	28.0	26540100	10.023280
1	James Harden	PG	27.0	26540100	8.604930
2	Giannis Antetokounmpo	SF	22.0	2995421	7.892214
3	Anthony Davis	C	23.0	22116750	7.572340
4	DeMarcus Cousins	C	26.0	16957900	7.521981
5	LeBron James	SF	32.0	30963450	7.480362
6	Karl-Anthony Towns	C	21.0	5960160	7.034812
7	Kawhi Leonard	SF	25.0	17638063	7.032502
8	John Wall	PG	26.0	16957900	7.016052
9	Stephen Curry	PG	28.0	12112359	6.926259
10	Jimmy Butler	SF	27.0	17552209	6.780512
11	Kevin Durant	SF	28.0	26540100	6.655458
12	Rudy Gobert	C	24.0	2121288	6.446824
13	Nikola Jokic	C	21.0	1358500	6.317256
14	Isaiah Thomas	PG	27.0	6587132	6.268412
15	Chris Paul	PG	31.0	22868827	6.176166
16	Damian Lillard	PG	26.0	24328425	6.010350
17	Draymond Green	PF	26.0	15330435	5.867736
18	Andre Drummond	C	23.0	22116750	5.842966
19	Hassan Whiteside	C	27.0	22116750	5.789636

NOTES: We believe our valuation model is very accurate, as our number 1 player was the league MVP, and 11 of the top 12 players were on the All-Star Team. Karl-Anthony Towns was the exception, and he was considered an all star snub and has made the all star team every year since. Additionally, the 13th and 14th players (Rudy Gobert and Nikola Jokic), who were not selected for the All-Star Team, were selected for the All-Star game in the following years. Therefore, we believe our model helps determine a players value while simultaneously showing underrated players who are on the rise.

```
In [102]: stats['Value'] = ((stats['BPM']*0.8645+stats['PER']*0.5245+stats['USG%']*.2532+stats['PTS']*0.0052+stats['AST']*0.0104+stats['TRB']*0.0103+stats['STL']*0.0583+stats['BLK']*0.0452)/8)
```

```
In [117]: statsVal2 = stats.sort_values('Value', ascending = False)
statsVal2.loc[statsVal2['Year'] == 2016].head(20)
```

Out[117]:

	Year	Player	Pos	Age	Tm	G	GS	MP	PER	TS%	3PAr	FT%	ORE
23633	2016.0	Stephen Curry	PG	27.0	GSW	79.0	79.0	2700.0	31.5	0.669	0.554	0.250	
24070	2016.0	Russell Westbrook	PG	27.0	OKC	80.0	80.0	2750.0	27.6	0.554	0.236	0.397	
23722	2016.0	James Harden	SG	26.0	HOU	82.0	82.0	3125.0	25.3	0.598	0.406	0.518	
23781	2016.0	LeBron James	SF	31.0	CLE	76.0	76.0	2709.0	27.5	0.588	0.199	0.347	
23654	2016.0	Kevin Durant	SF	27.0	OKC	72.0	72.0	2578.0	28.2	0.634	0.348	0.361	
23938	2016.0	Chris Paul	PG	30.0	LAC	74.0	74.0	2420.0	26.2	0.575	0.295	0.294	
23892	2016.0	Paul Millsap	PF	30.0	ATL	81.0	81.0	2647.0	21.3	0.556	0.218	0.383	
23839	2016.0	Kawhi Leonard	SF	24.0	SAS	72.0	72.0	2380.0	26.0	0.616	0.267	0.306	
23623	2016.0	DeMarcus Cousins	C	25.0	SAC	65.0	65.0	2246.0	23.6	0.538	0.158	0.498	
23849	2016.0	Kyle Lowry	PG	29.0	TOR	77.0	77.0	2851.0	22.2	0.578	0.457	0.410	
23705	2016.0	Draymond Green	PF	25.0	GSW	81.0	81.0	2808.0	19.3	0.587	0.315	0.402	
23692	2016.0	Paul George	SF	25.0	IND	81.0	81.0	2819.0	20.9	0.557	0.391	0.364	
24060	2016.0	John Wall	PG	25.0	WAS	77.0	77.0	2784.0	19.8	0.510	0.243	0.255	
24071	2016.0	Hassan Whiteside	C	26.0	MIA	73.0	43.0	2125.0	25.7	0.629	0.000	0.482	1
23649	2016.0	Andre Drummond	C	22.0	DET	81.0	81.0	2666.0	21.2	0.499	0.006	0.553	1
24040	2016.0	Karl-Anthony Towns	C	20.0	MIN	82.0	82.0	2627.0	22.5	0.590	0.076	0.239	1
23635	2016.0	Anthony Davis	C	22.0	NOP	61.0	61.0	2164.0	25.0	0.559	0.095	0.379	
23689	2016.0	Pau Gasol	C	35.0	CHI	72.0	72.0	2291.0	21.7	0.529	0.069	0.290	
24059	2016.0	Kemba Walker	PG	25.0	CHO	81.0	81.0	2885.0	20.8	0.554	0.368	0.329	
23842	2016.0	Damian Lillard	PG	25.0	POR	75.0	75.0	2676.0	22.2	0.560	0.414	0.315	

NOTES: Each of the top 13 rated players were on the 2016 all-star team, with our highest valued player, Stephen Curry, winning league Most Valuable Player in 2016. Therefore, this further supports the accuracy of our model.

Top Players By Position:

This section is designed for an easy view of top players by position for GMs to review and use in making transactional decisions. It also looks into low cost players with high value at each position.

Point Guard

Top 10 PG

```
In [114]: statsVal.loc[statsVal['Pos'] == 'PG'][['Player', 'Pos', 'Age', 'Salary', 'Value']].head(10)
```

Out[114]:

	Player	Pos	Age	Salary	Value
0	Russell Westbrook	PG	28.0	26540100	10.023280
1	James Harden	PG	27.0	26540100	8.604930
8	John Wall	PG	26.0	16957900	7.016052
9	Stephen Curry	PG	28.0	12112359	6.926259
14	Isaiah Thomas	PG	27.0	6587132	6.268412
15	Chris Paul	PG	31.0	22868827	6.176166
16	Damian Lillard	PG	26.0	24328425	6.010350
23	Kemba Walker	PG	26.0	12000000	5.604974
25	Mike Conley	PG	29.0	26540100	5.552233
26	Kyle Lowry	PG	30.0	12000000	5.548635

NOTES: As the only top 10 PG with a salary under \$10 million, it is very possible that Isaiah Thomas is undervalued, and GMs should look into signing him if possible.

Top 10 Low Cost PG

```
In [118]: (statsVal.loc[statsVal['Pos'] == 'PG'][statsVal['Salary'] < statsVal['Salary'].median()]\n          [statsVal['MP'] > 164][['Player', 'Pos', 'Age', 'Salary', 'Value']].head(10).)
```

```
//anaconda3/lib/python3.7/site-packages/ipykernel_launcher.py:1: Use\nrWarning: Boolean Series key will be reindexed to match DataFrame in\ndex.
```

```
"""Entry point for launching an IPython kernel.
```

```
//anaconda3/lib/python3.7/site-packages/ipykernel_launcher.py:2: Use\nrWarning: Boolean Series key will be reindexed to match DataFrame in\ndex.
```

Out[118]:

	Player	Pos	Age	Salary	Value
44	Elfrid Payton	PG	22.0	2613600	4.641734
58	Dennis Schroder	PG	23.0	2708582	4.376557
99	T.J. McConnell	PG	24.0	874636	3.560435
109	Seth Curry	PG	26.0	2898000	3.457219
147	Ty Lawson	PG	29.0	1315448	3.168144
198	Raymond Felton	PG	32.0	1551659	2.629550
214	Tim Frazier	PG	26.0	2090000	2.492970
221	Yogi Ferrell	PG	23.0	239767	2.427303
228	Spencer Dinwiddie	PG	23.0	726672	2.364702
242	Jerian Grant	PG	24.0	1643040	2.259975

NOTES: As the third best low cost PG, TJ McConnell deserves a closer look by GMs, as he is priced very low (under 1 million dollars) and is only 24 years old. GMs should also consider Elfrid Payton, as he is highly valued at the age of 22 and a salary less than \$3 million.

Shooting Guard

Top 10 SG


```
In [119]: statsVal.loc[statsVal['Pos'] == 'SG'][['Player', 'Pos', 'Age', 'Salary', 'Value']].head(10)
```

Out[119]:

	Player	Pos	Age	Salary	Value
24	DeMar DeRozan	SG	27.0	26540100	5.585201
38	C.J. McCollum	SG	25.0	3219579	4.984344
39	Bradley Beal	SG	23.0	22116750	4.928944
46	Nicolas Batum	SG	28.0	20869566	4.629320
49	Lou Williams	SG	30.0	7000000	4.595277
55	Dwyane Wade	SG	35.0	23200000	4.475196
56	Klay Thompson	SG	26.0	16663575	4.413484
71	Devin Booker	SG	20.0	2223600	4.048096
77	Marcus Smart	SG	22.0	3578880	3.862314
87	Patrick Beverley	SG	28.0	6000000	3.697759

NOTES: Our model's accuracy is further supported by this chart, as each of these players could be considered an elite player in the NBA. GMs should heavily target Devin Booker, a 20 year old stud who's salary costs less than \$2.5 million

Top 10 Low Cost SG

```
In [120]: (statsVal.loc[statsVal['Pos'] == 'SG'][statsVal['Salary'] < statsVal['Salary'].median()]\n          [statsVal['MP'] > 164][['Player', 'Pos', 'Age', 'Salary', 'Value']].head(10).
```

```
//anaconda3/lib/python3.7/site-packages/ipykernel_launcher.py:1: Use\nrWarning: Boolean Series key will be reindexed to match DataFrame in\n dex.
```

```
    """Entry point for launching an IPython kernel.
```

```
//anaconda3/lib/python3.7/site-packages/ipykernel_launcher.py:2: Use\nrWarning: Boolean Series key will be reindexed to match DataFrame in\n dex.
```

Out[120]:

	Player	Pos	Age	Salary	Value
38	C.J. McCollum	SG	25.0	3219579	4.984344
71	Devin Booker	SG	20.0	2223600	4.048096
113	Tim Hardaway	SG	24.0	2281605	3.429769
119	Gary Harris	SG	22.0	1655880	3.384372
120	Malcolm Brogdon	SG	24.0	925000	3.373213
156	Dion Waiters	SG	25.0	2898000	3.040514
165	Zach LaVine	SG	21.0	2240880	2.930149
174	Sean Kilpatrick	SG	27.0	980431	2.822191
186	Justin Holiday	SG	27.0	1015696	2.728635
187	Jamal Murray	SG	19.0	3210840	2.721096

NOTES: Each of these players are extremely valuable, as most are very young, and all are rated excellently. However, once again, Devin Booker is arguably the best pick on this chart. At 20 years old and performing at such a high level for a low cost, it is without question that he should be targeted.

Small Forward

Top 10 SF

```
In [121]: statsVal.loc[statsVal['Pos'] == 'SF'][['Player', 'Pos', 'Age', 'Salary', 'Value']].head(10)
```

Out[121]:

	Player	Pos	Age	Salary	Value
2	Giannis Antetokounmpo	SF	22.0	2995421	7.892214
5	LeBron James	SF	32.0	30963450	7.480362
7	Kawhi Leonard	SF	25.0	17638063	7.032502
10	Jimmy Butler	SF	27.0	17552209	6.780512
11	Kevin Durant	SF	28.0	26540100	6.655458
21	Paul George	SF	26.0	18314532	5.660310
28	Gordon Hayward	SF	26.0	16073140	5.302115
45	Otto Porter	SF	23.0	5893981	4.629703
51	Carmelo Anthony	SF	32.0	24559380	4.564890
57	Andrew Wiggins	SF	21.0	6006600	4.400675

NOTES: Not only is Giannis Antetokounmpo the highest ranked SF and 3rd ranked overall player at just the age of 22, but he also has a salary that is under \$3 million. It is a no brainer that all GMs should target this player heavily, but it will be hard to take him away from his team without trading a lot away.

Top 10 Low Cost SF

```
In [122]: (statsVal.loc[statsVal['Pos'] == 'SF'][statsVal['Salary'] < statsVal['Salary'].median()]\n          [statsVal['MP'] > 164][['Player', 'Pos', 'Age', 'Salary', 'Value']].head(10).
```

//anaconda3/lib/python3.7/site-packages/ipykernel_launcher.py:1: Use rWarning: Boolean Series key will be reindexed to match DataFrame in dex.

"""Entry point for launching an IPython kernel.

//anaconda3/lib/python3.7/site-packages/ipykernel_launcher.py:2: Use rWarning: Boolean Series key will be reindexed to match DataFrame in dex.

Out[122]:

	Player	Pos	Age	Salary	Value
2	Giannis Antetokounmpo	SF	22.0	2995421	7.892214
63	Robert Covington	SF	26.0	1015696	4.195305
102	T.J. Warren	SF	23.0	2128920	3.524349
110	Rondae Hollis-Jefferson	SF	22.0	1395600	3.449074
131	Joe Ingles	SF	29.0	2250000	3.293079
157	Andre Roberson	SF	25.0	2183072	3.040015
205	Justin Anderson	SF	23.0	1514160	2.575679
224	Sam Dekker	SF	22.0	1720560	2.392654
235	Caris LeVert	SF	22.0	1562280	2.297921
243	James Ennis	SF	26.0	2898000	2.244500

NOTES: Besides Giannis Antetokounmpo, Rondae Hollis-Jefferson is a player that should be heavily targeted by GMs. At 22 years old and a cost of just \$1.4 million, he provides long term rewards for a low cost, and is already performing at a very high level according to his valuation.

Power Forward

Top 10 PF

```
In [123]: statsVal.loc[statsVal['Pos'] == 'PF'][['Player', 'Pos', 'Age', 'Salary', 'Value']].head(10)
```

Out[123]:

	Player	Pos	Age	Salary	Value
17	Draymond Green	PF	26.0	15330435	5.867736
30	Blake Griffin	PF	27.0	20140838	5.286569
36	Paul Millsap	PF	31.0	20072033	5.060954
47	James Johnson	PF	29.0	4000000	4.617744
48	LaMarcus Aldridge	PF	31.0	20575005	4.615131
50	Kevin Love	PF	28.0	21165675	4.566491
53	Kristaps Porzingis	PF	21.0	4317720	4.523570
60	Gorgui Dieng	PF	27.0	2348783	4.304656
61	Serge Ibaka	PF	27.0	12250000	4.245497
65	Tobias Harris	PF	24.0	17200000	4.160936

NOTES: At 21 years old, 5th best PF, and under \$5 million, any GM would desire Kristaps Porzingis and his shooting and blocking abilities for his team.

Top 10 Low Cost PF

```
In [124]: (statsVal.loc[statsVal['Pos'] == 'PF'][statsVal['Salary'] < statsVal['Salary'].median()]\n          [statsVal['MP'] > 164][['Player', 'Pos', 'Age', 'Salary', 'Value']].head(10)).
```

```
//anaconda3/lib/python3.7/site-packages/ipykernel_launcher.py:1: Use\nrWarning: Boolean Series key will be reindexed to match DataFrame in\n dex.
```

```
    """Entry point for launching an IPython kernel.
```

```
//anaconda3/lib/python3.7/site-packages/ipykernel_launcher.py:2: Use\nrWarning: Boolean Series key will be reindexed to match DataFrame in\n dex.
```

Out[124]:

	Player	Pos	Age	Salary	Value
60	Gorgui Dieng	PF	27.0	2348783	4.304656
92	David Lee	PF	33.0	1551659	3.641047
100	Dario Saric	PF	22.0	2318280	3.538028
144	JaMychal Green	PF	26.0	980431	3.190466
149	Marquese Chriss	PF	19.0	2941440	3.156286
159	Terrence Jones	PF	25.0	1050961	3.027154
193	Michael Beasley	PF	28.0	1403611	2.671564
225	Brandon Bass	PF	31.0	1551659	2.386805
241	Thomas Robinson	PF	25.0	1050961	2.265230
245	Davis Bertans	PF	24.0	543471	2.214530

NOTES: Dario Saric, 22 years old, \$2.3 million salary and high value, along with Marquese Chriss, an already high valued PF at just 19 years old, provide immense potential return both short and long term for a team, while still being low cost. Therefore, GMs should look into adding these players.

Center

Top 10 C

```
In [125]: statsVal.loc[statsVal['Pos'] == 'C'][['Player', 'Pos', 'Age', 'Salary', 'Value']].head(10)
```

Out[125]:

	Player	Pos	Age	Salary	Value
3	Anthony Davis	C	23.0	22116750	7.572340
4	DeMarcus Cousins	C	26.0	16957900	7.521981
6	Karl-Anthony Towns	C	21.0	5960160	7.034812
12	Rudy Gobert	C	24.0	2121288	6.446824
13	Nikola Jokic	C	21.0	1358500	6.317256
18	Andre Drummond	C	23.0	22116750	5.842966
19	Hassan Whiteside	C	27.0	22116750	5.789636
20	DeAndre Jordan	C	28.0	21165675	5.715382
22	Marc Gasol	C	32.0	21165675	5.635523
31	Myles Turner	C	20.0	2463840	5.262169

NOTES: Rudy Gobert and Nikola Jokic, 13th and 14th overall and 4th and 5th ranked centers, provide very high returns for their teams for a low cost, and offer to continue doing this long term as they age. Therefore, they are very attractive players to Gms.

Top 10 Low Cost C

```
In [126]: (statsVal.loc[statsVal['Pos'] == 'C'][statsVal['Salary'] < statsVal['Salary'].median()]\n          [statsVal['MP'] > 164][['Player', 'Pos', 'Age', 'Salary', 'Value']].head(10)).
```

```
//anaconda3/lib/python3.7/site-packages/ipykernel_launcher.py:1: Use\nrWarning: Boolean Series key will be reindexed to match DataFrame in\n dex.
```

```
"""Entry point for launching an IPython kernel.
```

```
//anaconda3/lib/python3.7/site-packages/ipykernel_launcher.py:2: Use\nrWarning: Boolean Series key will be reindexed to match DataFrame in\n dex.
```

Out[126]:

	Player	Pos	Age	Salary	Value
12	Rudy Gobert	C	24.0	2121288	6.446824
13	Nikola Jokic	C	21.0	1358500	6.317256
31	Myles Turner	C	20.0	2463840	5.262169
41	Mason Plumlee	C	26.0	2328530	4.759871
62	Steven Adams	C	23.0	3140517	4.222405
66	Clint Capela	C	22.0	1296240	4.132835
78	Jusuf Nurkic	C	22.0	1921320	3.856104
91	JaVale McGee	C	29.0	1403611	3.651958
101	Willy Hernangomez	C	22.0	1375000	3.536489
111	Richaun Holmes	C	23.0	1025831	3.447846

NOTES: Besides Rudy Gobert and Nikola Jokic, Myles Turner offers a high return to his team and should be targeted by GMs., as he is just 20 years old, \$2.5 million, and the 32nd ranked overall player, 10th best center in the NBA. Jusuf Nurkic and Clint Capela are also attractive prospects, as they are low cost, 22 years old, and already performing at a high level.