Arsène Wenger

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Arsène Wenger** [**OBE**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Order_of_the_British_Empire) | | | |
| Wenger in July 2015 | | | |
| **Personal information** | | | |
| **Full name** | Arsène Wenger[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTEPalmer20089-1) | | |
| **Date of birth** | 22 October 1949 (age 68) | | |
| **Place of birth** | [Strasbourg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Strasbourg), France | | |
| **Height** | 6 ft 3 in (1.91 m)[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-2) | | |
| **Playing position** | [Midfielder](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Midfielder) | | |
| **Club information** | | | |
| **Current team** | [Arsenal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arsenal_F.C.) (manager) | | |
| **Youth career** | | | |
| 1963–1969 | FC Duttlenheim | | |
| 1969–1973 | [Mutzig](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AS_Mutzig) | | |
| **Senior career\*** | | | |
| **Years** | **Team** | **Apps** | **(Gls)** |
| 1969–1973 | [Mutzig](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AS_Mutzig) |  |  |
| 1973–1975 | [Mulhouse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FC_Mulhouse) | 56 | (4) |
| 1975–1978 | [ASPV Strasbourg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ASPV_Strasbourg) |  |  |
| 1978–1981 | [Strasbourg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RC_Strasbourg_Alsace) | 11 | (0) |
| **Total** |  | **67** | **(4)** |
| **Teams managed** | | | |
| 1984–1987 | [Nancy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AS_Nancy) | | |
| 1987–1994 | [Monaco](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AS_Monaco_FC) | | |
| 1995–1996 | [Nagoya Grampus Eight](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nagoya_Grampus) | | |
| 1996– | [Arsenal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arsenal_F.C.) | | |
| \* Senior club appearances and goals counted for the domestic league only | | | |

**Arsène Wenger** [OBE](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Order_of_the_British_Empire) (French pronunciation: ​[[aʁsɛn vɛŋɡɛʁ]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA/French); born 22 October 1949) is a French [football](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Association_football) [manager](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manager_(association_football)) and former [player](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Football_player). He has been the[manager](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Arsenal_F.C._managers) of [Arsenal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arsenal_F.C.) since October 1996, where he has since become the club's longest-serving manager and most successful in terms of major titles won. In April 2018, he announced his intention to step down as Arsenal manager at the end of the 2017–18 season, after almost 22 years in the role. Football pundits give Wenger credit for his contribution to the revolutionising of [football in England](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Football_in_England) in the late 1990s through the introduction of changes in the training and diet of players.

Wenger was born in [Strasbourg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Strasbourg) and raised in [Duttlenheim](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duttlenheim). He was introduced to football by his father, the manager of the local village team. After a modest playing career, in which he made appearances for several amateur clubs, Wenger obtained a manager's diploma in 1981. Following an unsuccessful period at [Nancy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AS_Nancy) which culminated in his dismissal in 1987, Wenger joined [AS Monaco](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AS_Monaco_FC); the club won the league championship in [1988](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1987%E2%80%9388_French_Division_1). In 1991, Wenger guided Monaco to victory in the [Coupe de France](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coupe_de_France), but their failure to regain the league title in later seasons led to his departure from the club by mutual consent in 1994. He briefly coached Japanese [J.League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J.League) side[Nagoya Grampus Eight](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nagoya_Grampus), which won the [Emperor's Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emperor%27s_Cup) and [Japanese Super Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_Super_Cup) during his stint.

In 1996, Wenger was named manager of Arsenal and two years later the club completed a [league](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Premier_League) and [FA Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FA_Cup) [double](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Double_(association_football)). The club won another league and cup double in 2002 and retained the FA Cup a year later. In 2004, Wenger managed Arsenal to an [undefeated league season](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2003%E2%80%9304_Arsenal_F.C._season), a feat last accomplished by [Preston North End](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Preston_North_End_F.C.), 115 years previously. Arsenal later eclipsed [Nottingham Forest](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nottingham_Forest_F.C.)'s record of 42 league matches unbeaten and went seven more matches [before losing in October 2004](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_the_Buffet). The club made their first appearance in a [Champions League final](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2006_UEFA_Champions_League_Final) in 2006, though they lost to [Barcelona](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FC_Barcelona). After a period of almost nine years without a trophy, which coincided with the club relocating to the [Emirates Stadium](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emirates_Stadium), Wenger guided Arsenal to further FA Cup success in [2014](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2014_FA_Cup_Final), [2015](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015_FA_Cup_Final) and [2017](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_FA_Cup_Final).

The nickname "*Le Professeur*" (French: usually translated as "*The Teacher*"[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-3)[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-4)) is used by fans and the British media to reflect Wenger's studious demeanour. His approach to the game emphasises an attacking mentality, with the aim that football ought to be entertaining on the pitch. Wenger's Arsenal teams have been criticised for their indiscipline; his players received 100 [red cards](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fouls_and_misconduct_(association_football)) between September 1996 and February 2014, though the team has won awards for sporting [fair play](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sportsmanship). At Monaco, Wenger earned a reputation for spotting young talent, and he has remained focused on developing a [youth system](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Youth_system).

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Early life

Arsène Wenger[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger" \l "cite_note-5) was born on 22 October 1949 in [Strasbourg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Strasbourg), [Alsace](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alsace), the youngest of three children born to Alphonse and Louise Wenger. He lived in [Duppigheim](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duppigheim) during the 1950s, but spent most of his time in the neighbouring village of[Duttlenheim](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duttlenheim), ten miles south-west of Strasbourg.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERees201411-6)[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTEPalmer20089-1) Alphonse, like many [Alsatians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alsatians_(people)), was [conscripted into the German Army by force](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malgr%C3%A9-nous) following Germany's earlier annexation of the French region of [Alsace-Lorraine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alsace-Lorraine).[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-alphonse-7) He was sent to fight on the [Eastern Front](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Front_(World_War_II)) in October 1944, at the age of 24.[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-alphonse-7)

The Wengers owned an automobile spare parts business and a [bistro](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bistro) titled *La croix d'or*.[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-rees-guardian-8) It meant that they had difficulty looking after their children, but Duttlenheim was a village where everyone took care of the young; Wenger compared it in later years to a [kibbutz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kibbutz).[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-rees-guardian-8) Before Wenger started school, he expressed himself in the local [Alsatian dialect](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alsatian_language) of [Low Alemannic German](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Low_Alemannic_German).[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTELong2005210-9) The primary school which Wenger attended was run by the Catholic Church,[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger" \l "cite_note-FOOTNOTERees201412-10) and as one of its brightest students, he later was accepted into a secondary school in [Obernai](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Obernai).[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERees201413-11)

According to his father, who also managed the village team, Wenger was introduced to football "at about the age of six".[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-stanf-12) He was taken to games in Germany, where he held an affection for [Borussia Mönchengladbach](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Borussia_M%C3%B6nchengladbach).[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTEPalmer20089-1) Alsace was an area steeped in religion; Wenger and the village boys often needed to seek permission from the Catholic priest to miss[vespers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vespers) in order to play football.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTEPalmer20089–10-13)

Playing career

Because the population of Duttlenheim was short in numbers, it proved difficult to field a team of 11 players of equal ages; Wenger did not play for FC Duttlenheim until the age of 12.[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTEPalmer200810-14) Claude Wenger, a teammate of Arsène's, noted his lack of pace as a player, which he made up for with his "ability to guard the ball, [seeming] to have a complete vision of the pitch and having an influence among his team-mates", according to Marcel Brandner, the president of FC Duttlenheim.[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-alphonse-7) As a young teenager, he was called *Petit*; the nickname ceased when he had a growth spurt and broke into FC Duttlenheim's first team, aged 16.[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERees201413–4-15) The team did not have a coach to prepare the players tactically, rather a person who supervised training sessions.[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERees201414-16) Wenger took it upon himself to manage the side, with Claude stating "Arsène wasn't the captain and yet he was. It was 'You do this, you do that, you do this, you do that.' He was the leader".[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERees201414-16)

Wenger's manager at RC Strasbourg, [Gilbert Gress](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gilbert_Gress)

In 1969 Wenger was recruited to nearby third division club [Mutzig](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AS_Mutzig).[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERees201415–6-17) The club was famed for playing the "best amateur football" in Alsace and managed by [Max Hild](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Max_Hild&action=edit&redlink=1), who would later go on to become Wenger's mentor.[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-rees-guardian-8) Wenger's emergence at Mutzig aged 20 was considered too late for him to build a reputable playing career.[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERivoire201118-18) Football was not seen as his future; the plan was for him to run the family's spare parts business. He was however of the age to start increasing his tactical knowledge of the sport.[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERivoire201118-18) He frequently read [*France Football*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/France_Football) and alongside Hild made trips to Germany to watch [Bundesliga](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bundesliga) matches and observe the different managerial styles.[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERivoire201118-18)[[19]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERees201415-19) During Wenger's three years at Mutzig, the club beat [FC Strasbourg 06](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=FC_Strasbourg_06&action=edit&redlink=1) 3–0 to win the Coupe d'Alsace.[[20]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERees201417-20)[[21]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-ASM-21)[[22]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-RCS-22) He also represented Alsace in a competition held annually between the regional leagues.[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERees201421-23)

Wenger took his studies further and in 1971 enrolled at the [*Faculté des sciences économiques et de gestion*](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Facult%C3%A9_des_sciences_%C3%A9conomiques_et_de_gestion_de_Strasbourg) (Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences) at the[University of Strasbourg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Strasbourg) to read politics and economics after a brief stint in medicine.[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERees201415–6-17) In 1973 he joined semi-professional club [Mulhouse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FC_Mulhouse) and balanced his football career with his education.[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERees201421-23)[[24]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERivoire201119-24) Wenger completed an economics degree[[nb 1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-29) a year later.[[29]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-30) He was selected to represent the national French students squad and visited Nigeria, Lebanon, and Uruguay – where the World Students Championship was held in 1976.[[30]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERivoire201120-31) Wenger did not participate in the event as he was injured; [Jean-Luc Arribart](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean-Luc_Arribart), captain of the team recalled: "By the end of that trip, Arsène had almost taken on the role of assistant coach and team joker rolled into one."[[31]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTEOldfield201010-32)

Wenger as a Strasbourg player in 1980

At Mulhouse, Wenger was managed by [Paul Frantz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Frantz), who also had a profound impact on his career. It was he who formalised Wenger's beliefs on the importance of nutrition, isometrics and working on a player's strong points.[[32]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERees201424–5-33) Wenger played in midfield for Mulhouse, often positioned on the right. In their final game of the 1974–75 season, the club beat [AS Nancy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AS_Nancy) to avoid relegation, but shortly afterwards, Frantz resigned.[[33]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERees201426-34) Wenger also made the decision to leave, as the regular commutes to Mulhouse from Strasbourg overwhelmed him.[[33]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERees201426-34) In 1975, he rekindled his friendship with Hild and signed for amateur club [ASPV Strasbourg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ASPV_Strasbourg) (Vauban).[[33]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERees201426-34)Hild needed a midfielder "who could organise play and also have a sort of hold over the team" and decided to recruit Wenger.[[33]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERees201426-34) Vauban was formed in 1971 and made steady progress up the French football league system thereafter; Wenger's three seasons at the club culminated with promotion to the third division.[[34]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERees201426–7-35)

In 1978, Hild joined [RC Strasbourg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RC_Strasbourg) as coach of the reserve team.[[35]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERees201428-36) The role required him to scout, so Hild wanted an experienced player to work with the youth while he was away.[[35]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERees201428-36) Both Hild and Frantz recommended Wenger, which convinced manager [Gilbert Gress](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gilbert_Gress) to appoint him.[[36]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERivoire201124-37) Wenger's playing career at the age of 28 began to wane, but he never anticipated a role in the first-team. Working for RC Strasbourg, however, presented him his first full-time job at the club he supported as a young boy.[[35]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERees201428-36) Hild moved Wenger from midfield to central defence, where he was positioned as a [sweeper](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Defender_(association_football)#Sweeper_.28libero.29) in reserve games.[[35]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERees201428-36) In November 1978, he made his debut for the first team against [MSV Duisburg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MSV_Duisburg) in the [UEFA Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UEFA_Cup) (a match Strasbourg lost 4–0) and a month later, Wenger played against champions [AS Monaco](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AS_Monaco) in the First Division.[[37]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERees201430-38) At the end of the 1978–79 season, RC Strasbourg won the[league](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1978%E2%80%9379_French_Division_1); Wenger did not join in the celebrations as he was preoccupied with the youth team.[[38]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERivoire201126-39) He made his final appearance for the senior side in 1979.[[39]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTEOldfield201013-40)

Wenger spent the last two years of his playing career predominantly running RC Strasbourg's reserve and youth team. He became conscious of the importance of speaking English and during his holidays, enrolled on a three-week language course at [Cambridge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Cambridge).[[40]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTEPalmer200811-41) Wenger also studied for his coaching badge at the [Centre de Ressources, d'expertise et de Performance Sportives](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Centre_de_ressources,_d%27expertise_et_de_performance_sportives) (CREPS) in Strasbourg – this consisted of a course to coach children, followed by an intensive six-day course which led up to the national coaching badge.[[41]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERees201433–4-42) The latter programme took place in Vichy, and was spread over three weeks, allowing Wenger to be able to put Frantz's teachings of isometrics into practice.[[42]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERivoire201127-43) In 1981, he received his manager's diploma in Paris.[[43]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-44)

Managerial career

**1984–1994: Nancy and Monaco**

Wenger's management skills at Strasbourg impressed many French coaches, and he moved to Ligue 2 club [Cannes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AS_Cannes) in 1983, where he became [Jean-Marc Guillou](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean-Marc_Guillou)'s assistant.[[44]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTEOldfield201014-45) Earning a steady wage of £300 per week, he was responsible for collecting information about opposition teams, and instilled discipline in the players through training sessions.[[45]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTEOldfield201014–5-46)Wenger's commitment to football was well documented; when asked what the young coach did during his spare time, general manager Richard Conte replied: "Videos, videos, videos. He was always watching videos of his opponents, of his own team. It didn't matter what time of night."[[46]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERees201440-47) Cannes failed to win promotion to Ligue 1, but they reached the quarter-finals of the [Coupe de France](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coupe_de_France).[[47]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTEOldfield201015-48) Wenger's work in raising the standard of the squad did not go unnoticed, and in 1984, he accepted Aldo Platini's offer to become manager of [Nancy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AS_Nancy).[[48]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTEPalmer200812-49)

[Ballon d'Or](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ballon_d%27Or) winner[George Weah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Weah) played under Wenger at Monaco, where he won the Coupe de France.

The challenge of sustaining Nancy as a Ligue 1 club was difficult as Wenger inherited a squad of sub-standard quality and he was given limited money to spend.[[49]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTEOldfield201016-50) He nevertheless relished the prospect of conducting business in the transfer market, and enjoyed freedom to trial theories he read about.[[49]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTEOldfield201016-50) In his first season at Nancy, Wenger hired a dietician to explain the benefits of healthy eating and made it imperative that players did not snack before games.[[50]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERees201446-51) He took the squad away from their usual summer training camp to Val Thorens, so that the players could acclimatise to the high-altitude.[[50]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERees201446-51) Platini attested the move to their strong league starts.[[50]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERees201446-51) From a managerial perspective, Wenger struggled to keep his emotions in check; losing made him "physically sick", to the point where he once stopped the team bus to vomit after a game.[[46]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERees201440-47) Wenger guided the club to a respectable 12th-place finish, all the more surprising given he constantly tinkered his team.[[49]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTEOldfield201016-50) Players were moved out of their favoured positions, which for some maximised their potential.[[49]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTEOldfield201016-50) Éric Bertrand, a striker signed from the lower divisions, was converted into a fullback, and by the end of Wenger's time at Nancy, [Éric Di Meco](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89ric_Di_Meco) switched from a left winger to wing back.[[51]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERees201447-52)

Argentine striker [Ramón Díaz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ram%C3%B3n_D%C3%ADaz) came to Monaco under Wenger in 1989.

Nancy's bottom-half finish proved a false dawn as the club finished 18th in the 1985–86 season, which meant they had to win a play-off match to avoid relegation. They retained their league status with a 3–2 aggregate win against Mulhouse. [[52]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERees201448-53) The club however sold several of their best players to avoid financial predicament and provided Wenger with little funds to work with.[[53]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERees201449-54)[[54]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTEOldfield201017-55) In Wenger's final season in charge, Nancy finished 19th and were relegated to Ligue 2.[[54]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTEOldfield201017-55) Despite the setbacks, he was contacted by [AS Monaco](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AS_Monaco) over their vacant managerial job.[[55]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERees201450-56) Talks had begun during the summer of 1986, but Nancy chairman Gérard Rousselot refused to release Wenger from his contract, and Monaco were not prepared to offer compensation.[[55]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERees201450-56) Once Nancy's relegation was confirmed, Wenger was permitted to leave the club by mutual consent and was confirmed as Monaco manager in 1987.[[48]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTEPalmer200812-49)

Before joining Monaco, Wenger had identified several players to build his desired team.[[56]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERivoire201135–6-57) [Tottenham Hotspur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tottenham_Hotspur_F.C.) midfielder[Glenn Hoddle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glenn_Hoddle), granted a free transfer, and [Patrick Battiston](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patrick_Battiston), out of contract at [Bordeaux](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FC_Girondins_de_Bordeaux), were signed.[[56]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERivoire201135–6-57) Striker [Mark Hateley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mark_Hateley) left [Milan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A.C._Milan) to join Monaco and was "encouraged to learn" that his fellow Englishman Hoddle would play in the same side as him.[[57]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-58) Monaco won the league in Wenger's debut season, six points ahead of runners-up Bordeaux.[[58]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-59) Although the team scored more goals in [1988–89](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1988%E2%80%9389_French_Division_1) due to the purchase of [Liberian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberia) striker [George Weah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Weah), Monaco failed to retain the league and finished third behind [Olympique de Marseille](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olympique_de_Marseille) and [Paris Saint-Germain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paris_Saint-Germain_F.C.).[[59]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-60) The club reached the final of the[Coupe de France](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coupe_de_France), the national knockout cup competition in the same season, but lost 4–3 to Marseille.[[60]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-pgex-61)

Monaco again finished third in [1989–90](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1989%E2%80%9390_French_Division_1); striker [Ramón Díaz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ram%C3%B3n_D%C3%ADaz) scored 15 goals in his first season at the club.[[61]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-62)[[62]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-63) The club beat league winners Marseille in the [Coupe de France final](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1991_Coupe_de_France_Final) through a last minute goal from [substitute](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Substitute_(association_football)) [Gérald Passi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/G%C3%A9rald_Passi).[[60]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-pgex-61) In[1991–92](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1991%E2%80%9392_French_Division_1), Monaco finished in second place and lost the [1992 European Cup Winners' Cup Final](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1992_European_Cup_Winners%27_Cup_Final) 2–0 to [Werder Bremen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Werder_Bremen).[[63]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-64) Although Monaco acquired the services of German striker [Jürgen Klinsmann](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J%C3%BCrgen_Klinsmann), the club could not regain the championship and concluded the subsequent seasons in third and ninth positions.[[64]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-65)[[65]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-66) Monaco did reach the semi-finals of the [Champions League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1993%E2%80%9394_UEFA_Champions_League) in April 1994, but lost to eventual winners Milan.[[66]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-Espns_/-67) As a result of his work at Monaco, Wenger was sought after by German club [Bayern Munich](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FC_Bayern_Munich), who wanted him to be their next manager.[[67]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-68) Monaco refused to let him leave and Wenger chose to stay, but a poor start to the [1994–95](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1994%E2%80%9395_French_Division_1) season meant he was dismissed on 17 September 1994, with the team in 17th spot in the table.[[68]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-69) In 2001, Wenger said that the impact of bribery and corruption had influenced his decision to leave France, as Marseille were [found guilty of match fixing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_football_bribery_scandal) in 1994.[[69]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-pges-70)

**1994–1996: Nagoya Grampus Eight**

Shortly after his dismissal, Wenger travelled to the United Arab Emirates to attend a series of conferences held by FIFA.[[70]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERivoire201161-71) Wenger was a member of the football governing body's technical committee, responsible for analysing the [1994 World Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1994_FIFA_World_Cup), and made a presentation to coaches of emerging football nations.[[70]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERivoire201161-71) His speech was closely followed by Japanese delegates, whose country had invested millions into the restructuring of its football league system.[[70]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERivoire201161-71)Representatives of [Toyota](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toyota), the majority owner of [Nagoya Grampus Eight](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nagoya_Grampus_Eight) soon met with Wenger and offered him the chance to become the club's manager.[[70]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERivoire201161-71) Wenger deliberated, even though the idea of working abroad appealed to him; negotiations between the two parties lasted for two months.[[71]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERivoire201161–2-72) In that time, he sought the advice of his closest friends and family, and flew to Japan to watch Nagoya Grampus' striker [Gary Lineker](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gary_Lineker) make his final appearance before his professional retirement.[[72]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERivoire201162-73) In December 1994, Wenger agreed to become manager of Nagoya Grampus, on a two-year contract worth [¥](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_yen)75m annually.[[73]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTEOldfield201021-74)

[Dragan Stojković](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dragan_Stojkovi%C4%87)flourished under Wenger's guidance at Nagoya Grampus.

With the new season of the [J.League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J.League) commencing in March 1995, Wenger set about assembling his squad and backroom staff. He hired former [Valenciennes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valenciennes_FC) manager [Boro Primorac](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boro_Primorac), whom he had befriended during the match-fixing scandal, as his assistant.[[74]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-boro-75)[Alexandre Torres](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexandre_Torres) joined Nagoya after Wenger identified the defender by watching Brazilian football on the television, and the manager brought in [Franck Durix](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Franck_Durix) and his former player Passi.[[75]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERivoire201164-76) Nagoya finished bottom of the J.League the season before Wenger's arrival,[[73]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger" \l "cite_note-FOOTNOTEOldfield201021-74) and continued their poor form into the following campaign, losing several matches in a row.[[75]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERivoire201164-76) In response to the situation, Wenger altered his managerial style, becoming less amicable with his players and openly questioning their desire.[[76]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERees201482-77) To boost morale, he took his squad to Versailles for their mid-season break, where they went through a rigorous, but creative, training regime.[[77]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERivoire201165-78) Players were expected to make decisions for themselves on the pitch, instead of relying on the manager;[[76]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger" \l "cite_note-FOOTNOTERees201482-77) Wenger was reported to have shouted to his players "Don't look at me to ask me what to do with the ball!"[[77]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERivoire201165-78) and "Decide for yourself! Why don't you think it out?"[[78]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-79) One player who greatly benefited from Wenger's guidance was [Dragan Stojković](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dragan_Stojkovi%C4%87), a midfielder whose disciplinary record improved considerably.[[79]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTEOldfield201022-80)[[80]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERees201479–80-81)

Wenger's methods had the desired effect – Nagoya won 17 of their following 27 games to finish [runners-up in 1995](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1995_Nagoya_Grampus_Eight_season).[[81]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERees201483-82) He shortly received the [J. League Manager of the Year](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J._League_Manager_of_the_Year) award for 1995, while Stojković claimed the player's honour.[[82]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-83) In January 1996, Wenger guided the club to their first piece of silverware as Nagoya defeated [Sanfrecce Hiroshima](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sanfrecce_Hiroshima) to win the Emperor's Cup.[[81]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERees201483-82) Two months later they triumphed in the Super Cup, beating[Yokohama Marinos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yokohama_Marinos) 2–0.[[83]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERivoire201170-84) The success bolstered Nagoya's status in Japanese football, as well as Wenger's reputation; he was somewhat startled by the praise and idolisation that came his way.[[83]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERivoire201170-84) Midway through the [1996 league season](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1996_J.League), Wenger's former club Strasbourg enquired about the possibility of him returning to manage them.[[84]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERivoire201175-85) He turned down the offer as he was earlier approached by Arsenal.[[84]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERivoire201175-85) Dein had remained in contact with Wenger after their first meeting, and frequently sent him video tapes of matches to garner his opinions; "He was my personal pundit," the vice-chairman recalled.[[85]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-86) The Arsenal board rebuffed Dein's suggestion to appoint Wenger as early as 1995, but concerns over[George Graham](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Graham_(footballer))'s successor [Bruce Rioch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bruce_Rioch) meant they were more open-minded about hiring him since his stint in Japan.[[86]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERivoire201177-87)

Wenger managed Nagoya for the final time on 28 August 1996 and delivered a farewell speech, thanking the fans in Japanese.[[86]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERivoire201177-87)[[87]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERees201488-88) Assessing his time in Japan, biographer Jasper Rees felt Wenger had left a mixed legacy at the club, as the immediate success was followed by fluctuating league finishes;[[87]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERees201488-88) it was not until 2010 that Nagoya (under Stojković) won their first title.[[88]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-89) Wenger continues to speak fondly of his career in Japan and once likened the country to his ancestral home: "It has beautiful things that we have lost in Europe, beautiful things that make life good."[[89]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERees201476-90) He also credited the culture for improving his temperament and rediscovering his passion for the game.[[90]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-91)[[91]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTEPalmer200822-92) Wenger returned to Japan as a television pundit for the [2003 FIFA Confederations Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2003_FIFA_Confederations_Cup),[[92]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERivoire201171-93) and a decade later, took Arsenal to face Nagoya in a pre-season friendly.[[93]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-94)

**Arsenal**

**1996–97: Appointment and first season**

In August 1996, Arsenal dismissed [Bruce Rioch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bruce_Rioch) as club manager.[[94]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-rioch-95) Rioch's position had become untenable after a dispute with the board over transfers, and his working relationship with Dein worsened during the course of his tenure.[[94]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-rioch-95)Arsenal appointed [Stewart Houston](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stewart_Houston) and later [Pat Rice](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pat_Rice) in temporary charge of the first team, while they searched for a full-time successor.[[95]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-96) Although Barcelona player and manager [Johan Cruyff](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johan_Cruyff) was favourite to take over,[[96]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-97) the board looked elsewhere, eventually backing Dein's proposal to hire Wenger.[[97]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-98) The appointment was delayed for several weeks as Wenger was under contract at Nagoya Grampus and the club wanted time to make a final decision.[[98]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-99) In the meantime the Arsenal board refused to confirm the identity of their next manager, but speculation grew that it would be Wenger once the club signed French midfielders [Patrick Vieira](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patrick_Vieira) and [Rémi Garde](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/R%C3%A9mi_Garde).[[99]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-100) On 22 September 1996, Wenger was unveiled as Arsenal manager, after Nagoya Grampus granted him his release.[[100]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-101) He officially assumed the role on 1 October 1996.[[101]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-102) At his first press conference, he told reporters: "The main reason for coming is that I love English football, the roots of the game are here. I like the spirit round the game and at Arsenal I like the spirit of the club and its potential."[[102]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-103)

"At first, I thought: What does this Frenchman know about football? He wears glasses and looks more like a schoolteacher. He's not going to be as good as[George [Graham]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Graham_(footballer)). Does he even speak English properly?"

*Arsenal captain*[*Tony Adams*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tony_Adams_(footballer))*.*[[103]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-104)

Wenger's unveiling took place at Highbury in September 1996.

Wenger's arrival at Arsenal was greeted with perplexity by some of the club's players, supporters and the local media.[[nb 2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-106) Although he was touted as a future technical director of [The Football Association](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Football_Association) (FA),[[105]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger" \l "cite_note-107) he was relatively unknown in English football. Glenn Moore's report in [*The Independent*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Independent), dated 24 September 1996, highlighted the mood: "It is a measure of the insularity of the English game that when Arsène Wenger's name emerged as Arsenal's favoured candidate for their vacant manager's job many supporters were asking: 'Arsène who?'"[[106]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-108) Unlike his predecessors, Wenger was given control over transfers, contracts and training sessions, and the Arsenal board chose not to meddle in team affairs.[[107]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERivoire201180-109) One of his first acts as manager was to assure the experienced players they had a future at the club, but he noted the squad was "a bit tight," and needed competition for places.[[108]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERivoire201182-110) Wenger adopted a hands-on approach to training sessions which energised the squad and made steps to change the drinking culture that afflicted Arsenal.[[109]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTEPalmer200845–9-111) Although he initially allowed players to have a pint of beer, they were forbidden to drink on days off and in the players' lounge.[[110]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-112) He later banned his players from casually drinking together.[[111]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-113) Wenger also promoted pasta as the pre-match dish, encouraged boiled chicken instead of red meat and discouraged junk food.[[112]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTEPalmer200846-114) Players received optional vitamin injections and [Creatine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Creatine_supplements), which reduced fatigue and improved their stamina.[[112]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTEPalmer200846-114)

Wenger's first match was a 2–0 away victory over [Blackburn Rovers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blackburn_Rovers_F.C.) on 12 October 1996,[[113]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-115) however, he did suggest "one or two changes" to Rice in Arsenal's [UEFA Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UEFA_Cup) defeat to [Borussia Mönchengladbach](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Borussia_M%C3%B6nchengladbach) on 24 September, nine days prior to taking charge of the club.[[114]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-116) The interference upset club captain [Tony Adams](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tony_Adams), who on his first meeting with the manager expressed his disappointment: "I said to him that he had put our entire season in jeopardy by doing what he had done."[[115]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERivoire201184-117) Wenger chose to take the criticism on board upon arrival, and made an effort listening to Adams' assessment of the club.[[116]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERivoire201184–5-118) This particular approach of management resonated with the other players, who were sceptical of his ideas at first. The English players often set up pranks on Wenger to relieve hostility and nicknamed him "Inspector Clouseau", due to his clumsy nature.[[117]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERivoire201185–7-119) Adams said his sense of humour helped build team spirit: "Not only does Wenger love a good laugh, but he can laugh at himself. He is this gangly wise man".[[118]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERivoire201187-120)

Malicious rumours concerning Wenger's private life surfaced during November 1996, to the extent the City of London reported that his exit from Arsenal was imminent.[[119]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-rumo-121) Having returned from a trip to Strasbourg to visit his parents, Wenger attended a press meeting and strongly refuted the claims: "If something comes out that is wrong, I will attack. It is a serious matter if you can just create things that are not right."[[119]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-rumo-121) Arsenal's press officer [Clare Tomlinson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clare_Tomlinson), who was present at the news conference, recalled Wenger phoning the next day and demanding why he could not take action against the press for printing the story.[[120]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTECross201534-122) The culprit responsible for spreading gossip in the City later apologised to Wenger.[[121]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-123) During this, Arsenal had led the [Premier League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Premier_League), but poor form in February 1997 caused Wenger to rule out his team's chances of winning the title.[[122]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-124) They finished third in his first season, missing out on [UEFA Champions League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UEFA_Champions_League)qualification to [Newcastle United](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newcastle_United_F.C.) on [goal difference](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goal_difference) – the [tiebreaker](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiebreaker) used to determine the ranking between teams equal on points.[[123]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-125)

**1997–2001: Early success**

In preparation for the [forthcoming season](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1997-98_Arsenal_F.C._season), Wenger took the Arsenal squad to Austria, which would become the club's usual pre-season base.[[124]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTECross201535-126) The players were given a night out as a reward for vigorous training, which midfielder [Ray Parlour](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ray_Parlour) revealed was spent at local pub with the other English players, while the "French lads" headed to the coffee shop and smoked.[[125]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-parl-127) "How are we going to win the league this year? We're all drunk and they're all smoking," he recollected.[[125]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-parl-127) Wenger continued to fine-tune the squad during this period. Having vetoed [John Hartson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Hartson)'s move to [West Ham United](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Ham_United_F.C.) in February 1997, he convinced French teenager [Nicolas Anelka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicolas_Anelka) to join Arsenal.[[126]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-128)[[127]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-129) He raided his old club Monaco to acquire the services of [Christopher Wreh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christopher_Wreh), [Gilles Grimandi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gilles_Grimandi) and [Emmanuel Petit](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emmanuel_Petit).[[128]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTEOldfield201039-130) The latter two were defenders, but Wenger thought both were capable of playing in midfield.[[128]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTEOldfield201039-130) To address the shortcomings of playing expansive football, winger [Marc Overmars](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marc_Overmars) was purchased from [Ajax](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AFC_Ajax), while [Paul Merson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Merson) moved to [Middlesbrough](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middlesbrough_F.C.).[[129]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTEPalmer200867-131)[[130]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTEOldfield201039–40-132)Wenger assessed Arsenal lost the Premier League because of their poor home performances, and felt they needed more pace and power.[[129]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTEPalmer200867-131)

Arsenal began the 1997–98 season well, but struggled in November; though they beat [Manchester United](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_United_F.C.) at Highbury without the suspended [Dennis Bergkamp](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dennis_Bergkamp).[[131]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-133) This was their only league win throughout the month.[[132]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-134) Defeat at home to[Blackburn Rovers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blackburn_Rovers_F.C.) left the club in sixth position before Christmas and seemingly out of contention for the title.[[133]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-135) Striker[Ian Wright](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ian_Wright) was booed off by supporters over his performance, which he responded to by criticising the crowd from the dressing room window.[[134]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-136) Wenger called for an urgent team meeting, where "home truths were spoken, fingers pointed, players were geed up."[[135]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTECross201544-137) The squad dictated how the conversation went, which the senior defenders made it clear they wanted Vieira and Petit to provide cover.[[136]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTEPalmer200897-138)

[Dennis Bergkamp](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dennis_Bergkamp) was a regular in Wenger's early teams.

Such was the likelihood of Manchester United going on to retain the title, [bookmaker](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bookmaker) [Fred Done](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fred_Done) paid out on punters with two months of the season left.[[137]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-139) Arsenal steadily closed the gap, however, and victory against [Wimbledon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wimbledon_F.C.) in March 1998 set up a title clash between themselves and the reigning champions.[[138]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-140) Wenger in the lead up to the game maintained it was possible for Arsenal to win the league, stating "two or three weeks ago, the title was just a dream for us and people laughed when I said we could still do it".[[139]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-141)He suggested Manchester United were responsible for making the title race "interesting".[[140]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTECross201545-142) At [Old Trafford](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Trafford), Overmars scored the decisive goal to give Arsenal a 1–0 win.[[141]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-143) The victory was followed by nine consecutive league wins, the last of which was a home fixture against [Everton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Everton_F.C.) that secured Arsenal's status as champions.[[142]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTEPalmer2008114–21-144) Wenger became the first foreign manager to win the [double](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Double_(association_football)), when his team beat [Newcastle United](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newcastle_United_F.C.)in the [1998 FA Cup Final](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1998_FA_Cup_Final).[[143]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-145)

Wenger sanctioned Wright's transfer to West Ham in the summer and made Anelka his first-choice striker ahead of the [1998–99](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1998%E2%80%9399_Arsenal_F.C._season) season.[[144]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTEPalmer2008129-146) His decision not to bolster Arsenal's attack, coupled with Bergkamp's fear of flying, meant the club entered the Champions League with just one recognised striker.[[145]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTEPalmer2008140-147) Their time in the competition was brief, making an exit at the group stage, with their domestic form being indifferent.[[146]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTEPalmer2008131–46-148) Needing to strengthen their attacking options, Arsenal signed [Nwankwo Kanu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nwankwo_Kanu) in January 1999, and his presence reinvigorated the team as they embarked on a run similar to last season.[[147]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTEPalmer2008147-149) They finished second behind Manchester United however, losing their slender advantage once they lost their penultimate match.[[148]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-150) United also eliminated Arsenal in a [FA Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FA_Cup) semi-final replay after extra time; Wenger afterwards said: "it was a smashing game, and in the end, the luckiest won."[[149]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTEPalmer2008156-151) In August 1999, Anelka joined[Real Madrid](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Real_Madrid_C.F.) having threatened to strike if Arsenal did not grant him a move abroad.[[150]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-152) Wenger used a portion of the proceeds generated through the Anelka sale to fund the build of the [Arsenal Training Centre](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arsenal_Training_Centre), expressing his desire to establish a "home away from Arsenal".[[151]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-153) He renewed his forward line by signing [Davor Šuker](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Davor_%C5%A0uker) from Real, and [Thierry Henry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thierry_Henry),[[152]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTEAuclair2012121-154) who joined after seven "injury-interrupted" months at [Juventus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juventus_F.C.) for £11.5 million.[[153]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-155) It was Wenger's intention to partner Anelka with Henry, but the former's departure meant the plan was scrapped.[[154]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-156)

The following seasons were comparatively barren. Arsenal again exited the Champions League at the group stage, but dropped down to the UEFA Cup.[[155]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-157) Wenger guided his team to the [final](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2000_UEFA_Cup_Final), where they lost to [Galatasaray](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galatasaray_S.K._(football_team)) on [penalties](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Penalty_shootout_(association_football)).[[156]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTECross201553-158)In the league, Arsenal finished 18 points behind Manchester United as runners-up, and though they closed the gap to eight points in [2000–01](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2000-01_Arsenal_F.C._season), they never posed a serious title challenge.[[157]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTECross201553–6-159) The trophy drought continued past 2001, when[Michael Owen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Owen) scored two late goals for [Liverpool](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liverpool_F.C.) to beat Arsenal in the [FA Cup Final](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2001_FA_Cup_Final).[[158]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-160) Wenger rued his team's inability to make possession count, but refused to blame individuals, namely Henry, for missing chances.[[159]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-161)

**2001–06: Second double, *Invincibles*, and leaving Highbury**

The cup defeat prompted Wenger make changes to his squad.[[160]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTECross201559-162) He signed young England internationals [Richard Wright](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Wright_(footballer)) and [Francis Jeffers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_Jeffers), midfielder [Giovanni van Bronckhorst](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giovanni_van_Bronckhorst) from [Rangers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rangers_F.C.) as a partner for Vieira, and convinced defender [Sol Campbell](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sol_Campbell) to join from [local rivals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_London_derby) Tottenham Hotspur on a free transfer.[[161]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTEPalmer2008262-163)[[162]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-164) Campbell's arrival strengthened a defence which was going through a transition phase from 1999 and 2001; [Steve Bould](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steve_Bould) and [Nigel Winterburn](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigel_Winterburn) moved on in this period, club graduate [Ashley Cole](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ashley_Cole) displaced [Sylvinho](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sylvinho) as Wenger's first choice left back, while[Lauren](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lauren_(footballer)) acted as [Lee Dixon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lee_Dixon)'s understudy.[[163]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTEPalmer2008262–3-165) Midfielders [Fredrik Ljungberg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fredrik_Ljungberg) and [Robert Pirès](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Pir%C3%A8s) – brought in during preceding transfer windows, had now established themselves into the first team.[[164]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-166)[[165]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-167) The [2001–02](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2001%E2%80%9302_Arsenal_F.C._season) season brought much success as Wenger led Arsenal to the double once more.[[166]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-the_double-168) The crowning moment was the win against Manchester United at [Old Trafford](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Trafford) in the penultimate game of the season.[[166]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-the_double-168) [Sylvain Wiltord](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sylvain_Wiltord) scored the winning goal to secure the club's 12th league championship and third double; four days earlier, Arsenal beat [Chelsea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chelsea_F.C.) 2–0 in the [2002 FA Cup Final](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2002_FA_Cup_Final).[[167]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-169) The team scored in every single league fixture and were unbeaten away from home that season.[[168]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-170)[[169]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-171)

Wenger in 2003

Wenger appointed Vieira as club captain following Adams' retirement, and made few additions to his double-winning squad, signing defender [Pascal Cygan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pascal_Cygan), midfielder[Gilberto Silva](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gilberto_Silva) and utility player [Kolo Touré](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kolo_Tour%C3%A9).[[170]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTEOldfield2010105-172) He was confident his side would retain the league and told the media: "Nobody will finish above us in the league. It wouldn't surprise me if we were to go unbeaten for the whole of the season".[[171]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-173)[[nb 3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-175) Arsenal set a new top-flight record in their opening game of the [2002–03](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2002-03_Arsenal_F.C._season) season; a 2–0 victory against[Birmingham City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Birmingham_City_F.C.) was their 14th league win in succession.[[173]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-176) They continued their fine start by overhauling [Nottingham Forest](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nottingham_Forest_F.C.)'s top-flight record of 22 away league matches without defeat and later surpassed Manchester United's Premier League total of 29 matches unbeaten.[[174]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-177) Arsenal lost to Everton in October 2002, which began a run of four matches without a win.[[175]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-178) Though Wenger's team built an eight-point lead over challengers Manchester United by March 2003, they were overhauled in the final weeks of the season.[[176]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-tenweeks-179) The title race shifted in United's favour when [Bolton Wanderers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bolton_Wanderers_F.C.) came from behind to draw 2–2 against Arsenal.[[176]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-tenweeks-179) Wenger showed moments of exasperation during the match by loosening his tie and bellowing orders from the touchline. Journalist [Phil McNulty](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phil_McNulty) wrote that Wenger's demeanor "spoke of someone who had the title in his grasp but now saw it slipping from his fingers".[[177]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-180) Arsenal beat[Southampton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southampton_F.C.) 1–0 to retain the FA Cup at the end of the campaign.[[178]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-181)

During pre-season, Wenger arranged a meeting with the players to examine why they lost the league.[[179]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTELawrence20146-182) [Martin Keown](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin_Keown)felt the manager harmed their chances by boasting they could go the season unbeaten.[[179]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTELawrence20146-182) "Look, I said that because I think you can do it. But you must really want it," was Wenger's reply, as he believed the squad had the right mixture of technique, intelligence and physique.[[180]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTELawrence20146–7-183) Arsenal did little transfer business given the financial demands that came with their [new stadium project](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emirates_Stadium); their only major signing was [Jens Lehmann](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jens_Lehmann), who replaced [David Seaman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Seaman) as goalkeeper. Wenger retained his best players, despite interest shown by Chelsea's new owner [Roman Abramovich](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Abramovich). Six games into the[league season](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2003%E2%80%9304_FA_Premier_League), Arsenal were involved in a brawl against Manchester United; the ill-feeling stemmed from Vieira's dismissal late on. Several players were charged and fined accordingly by the FA and Wenger apologised for his team's overreaction.[[181]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-184) The team restored their image with an entertaining performance against Newcastle; [Henry Winter](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Winter) in his match report wrote: "[Henry's opening goal] encapsulated all that is good about Arsenal, the slick passing and intelligent movement."[[182]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-185) Wenger led his side to league triumph without a single defeat – an accomplishment last achieved by[Preston North End](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Preston_North_End_F.C.) 115 years before, in the [Football League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Football_League).[[183]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-186) "Somebody threw me a T-shirt after the trophy was presented which read 'Comical Wenger says we can go the whole season unbeaten.' I was just a season too early!," he remarked during the club's victory parade.[[184]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-187)

Arsenal's run of 49 league games unbeaten came to an end with a 2–0 defeat at Manchester United on 24 October 2004.[[185]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-188) The team under Wenger's management enjoyed another relatively strong league campaign in [2004–05](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2004%E2%80%9305_Arsenal_F.C._season), but finished second to Chelsea, who ended the season 12 points in front.[[186]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-report-189) Consolation again came in the FA Cup; Arsenal defeated Manchester United on penalties, after a goalless [final](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2005_FA_Cup_Final).[[187]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-190) The emergence of [Cesc Fàbregas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cesc_F%C3%A0bregas) in the starting lineup prompted Wenger to sell Vieira to [Juventus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juventus_F.C.) in July 2005.[[188]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-rds-191) He noticed the two as a midfield pairing was ineffective, and felt keeping Fàbregas would benefit the club's future.[[188]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-rds-191) The [2005–06](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2005%E2%80%9306_Arsenal_F.C._season) season marked the beginning of a transitional period for Arsenal as it was the club's final season at Highbury.[[189]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-192) The team finished fourth in the Premier League and outside the top two for the first time under Wenger's tenure.[[190]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-193) In Europe, however, Wenger assembled an inexperienced defence that beat Real Madrid, Juventus and [Villarreal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Villarreal_CF) and conceded no goals in the knockout stages of the Champions League.[[191]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-194) They progressed to the [final](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2006_UEFA_Champions_League_Final) in May 2006, but ended the competition as runners-up to Barcelona.[[192]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-195)

**2006–11: Stadium move and transition**

In the summer of 2006, Wenger oversaw Arsenal's relocation to the Emirates Stadium.[[193]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTEPalmer2008374-196) During the construction phase, he described the move as "vital" to the club's financial future and believed Arsenal were better able to attract the best players.[[194]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-197) Moving to the new stadium, however, presented several problems in the short term, as the club prioritised financing it over the team.[[195]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-198) Wenger sold some of his experienced players such as Campbell, Lauren and Pirès, sanctioned Cole's move to Chelsea in part exchange for defender [William Gallas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Gallas),[[196]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTEPalmer2008374–6-199) and integrated young players like[Theo Walcott](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theo_Walcott) and [Alex Song](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alex_Song) into the first team. His youthful team contested the [League Cup final](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2007_Football_League_Cup_Final) in February 2007 and were the youngest to play in a major English cup final, averaging 21 years.[[197]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-200) They ultimately came up short against Chelsea, who won the match 2–1.[[198]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-201) Arsenal finished fourth in the [2006–07](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2006%E2%80%9307_Arsenal_F.C._season) league season;[[199]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger" \l "cite_note-202) Wenger had ruled out their title chances following defeat to Bolton in November 2006.[[200]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-203) The team's lack of directness and efficiency of possession was a familiar theme during the campaign;[[201]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-204) *Guardian* journalist [Daniel Taylor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daniel_Taylor_(journalist)) observed two matches into the league season: "The most watchable side are frequently the most frustrating. Arsenal are wonderfully incisive yet infuriatingly blunt."[[202]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-205)

Wenger in training with Arsenal in 2009.

In April 2007, Dein left Arsenal due to "irreconcilable differences" about the future of the club.[[203]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-206) Wenger described it as a "sad day for Arsenal," and sought assurances from the board over his future as well as reasons for Dein's departure.[[204]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-207) The instability at board level influenced club captain Henry's decision to leave Arsenal in June 2007, which led to uncertainty over Wenger's position.[[205]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-208) In September 2007, Wenger signed a new three-year extension, insisting that he remained committed to "the club of my life."[[206]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-209) Arsenal flourished in Henry's absence, with [Emmanuel Adebayor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emmanuel_Adebayor), [Mathieu Flamini](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mathieu_Flamini) and Fàbregas playing a more prominent role in the [2007–08](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2007%E2%80%9308_Arsenal_F.C._season) season.[[207]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTEPalmer2008384-210)[[208]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-211) Defeat to [Middlesbrough](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middlesbrough_F.C.) in December 2007 ended a run of 22 league matches unbeaten,[[209]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-212) but Arsenal soon built a five-point lead over Manchester United.[[210]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-gtsea-213) A career-threatening injury to striker [Eduardo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eduardo_da_Silva)against [Birmingham City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Birmingham_City_F.C.) on 23 February 2008 acted as a turning point in Arsenal's season.[[211]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-214) Wenger, incensed at the aggressive tactics of opponents, called for a ban on tackler [Martin Taylor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin_Taylor_(footballer_born_1979)) in his post-match interview; he later retracted the comment.[[212]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-215)Arsenal's form subsequently suffered, and a run of three consecutive draws in March allowed Manchester United and Chelsea to overhaul them as they finished the season in third.[[210]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-gtsea-213)

Arsenal made a troubled start to Wenger's [twelfth season](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2008-09_Arsenal_F.C._season). The club relieved Gallas of his captaincy, after he openly questioned his teammates, and Wenger appointed Fàbregas as his successor.[[213]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-216) Arsenal secured fourth position in the league and reached the semi-finals of the Champions League and FA Cup, but it was a fourth season without silverware.[[214]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-217) Wenger was subject to criticism from Arsenal fans; he praised the travelling supporters, though referred to a section of the home crowd as treating him "like a murderer".[[215]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-218) Arsenal finished third in the league in [2009–10](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2009%E2%80%9310_Arsenal_F.C._season)[[216]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-219) and the team were eliminated in the quarter-finals of the Champions League by Barcelona.[[217]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-220) Wenger had reached a landmark in October 2009, surpassing [George Allison](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Allison) to become Arsenal's longest-serving manager.[[218]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-221)

In August 2010, Wenger signed a further three-year contract to continue his managerial career at Arsenal.[[219]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-222) His team were on course for a quadruple trophy haul in [2010–11](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2010%E2%80%9311_Arsenal_F.C._season), before defeat to Birmingham City in the [2011 Football League Cup Final](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011_Football_League_Cup_Final), when a mix-up between goalkeeper [Wojciech Szczęsny](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wojciech_Szcz%C4%99sny) and defender [Laurent Koscielny](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laurent_Koscielny) allowed [Obafemi Martins](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Obafemi_Martins) to score the winning goal.[[220]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-223) This was followed by a run of just two wins in 11 Premier League games, to take them from title contenders to a fourth-place finish.[[221]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-224) Arsenal then made exits in the FA Cup and the Champions League to Manchester United and Barcelona, respectively.[[222]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-225)

**2011–present: Rebuilding and partial success**

Wenger's preparations for the [2011–12](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011-12_Arsenal_F.C._season) season were disrupted by player unrest. Though he insisted none of his top players would leave the club, Fàbregas eventually moved to Barcelona, while [Gaël Clichy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ga%C3%ABl_Clichy) and [Samir Nasri](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samir_Nasri) joined Manchester City.[[223]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-tranb-226) Suspensions and injuries left Wenger fielding an understrength side against Manchester United on 29 August 2011; Arsenal were trounced 8–2, which represented their worst defeat in 115 years.[[224]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-227) Needing to address the squad's lack of depth, Wenger completed a series of deals in the final days of the summer transfer window.[[223]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-tranb-226) He mostly brought in experienced players, such as [Yossi Benayoun](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yossi_Benayoun) on loan from Chelsea, Everton's [Mikel Arteta](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikel_Arteta) and Germany international [Per Mertesacker](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Per_Mertesacker).[[225]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-228) By October, Arsenal had made their worst start to a season in 58 years, losing four of their opening seven matches.[[226]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-229) However, the team soon harmonised, and in the same month club captain[Robin van Persie](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robin_van_Persie) scored a hat-trick as Arsenal beat Chelsea 5–3.[[227]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-230) Despite another season of no silverware, Wenger guided Arsenal to third position in the Premier League, thus qualifying for the Champions League for a 15th successive campaign.[[228]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-231) Van Persie had scored 37 goals, in his first injury-free season for the club.[[229]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-232) He, however, grew disillusioned with Arsenal's transfer policy, and decided not to renew his contract, with one year remaining. When Manchester United manager [Sir Alex Ferguson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alex_Ferguson) learnt of the situation, he called Wenger to push through a deal and Van Persie agreed to join Manchester United in August 2012.[[230]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTECross2015124–5-233) The club purchased strikers [Olivier Giroud](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olivier_Giroud) and [Lukas Podolski](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lukas_Podolski) in anticipation of the sale.[[231]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-234)

Wenger looking on from the touchline in 2012

The [2012–13](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2012%E2%80%9313_Arsenal_F.C._season) season was Wenger's first without Rice, who retired in late spring.[[232]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-bould-235) Bould was named as his replacement, who specialised in defensive work.[[232]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-bould-235) Arsenal struggled to find consistency in the league and were 12 points behind leaders Manchester United by November 2012.[[233]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-236) A month later, Wenger came under strong criticism following his side's exit in the League Cup to [Bradford City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bradford_City_F.C.), when a full-strength team lost on penalties to opposition three divisions below.[[234]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTECross2015154–5-237) Further cup defeats to Blackburn Rovers and [Bayern Munich](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bayern_M%C3%BCnchen) in the FA Cup and Champions League, respectively, ended Arsenal's trophy chances for an eighth consecutive season.[[235]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-238) Before the first leg, Wenger had criticised the media for reporting he was about to sign a contract extension, and said of the Blackburn game: "We lost it in the last 20 minutes, so there are a lot of superficial analyses that you cannot accept. Because one guy says something, everybody goes the same way".[[236]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-239)Arsenal's chances of finishing in the top four appeared over by March, after defeat to [Tottenham Hotspur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tottenham_Hotspur).[[237]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-spurst-240) With ten league matches remaining, they were seven points behind their rivals, and Wenger admitted his side could not afford any more dropped points.[[237]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-spurst-240) He made changes to the side for their second leg against Bayern, dropping captain [Thomas Vermaelen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Vermaelen) and Szczęsny, in place of Koscielny and [Łukasz Fabiański](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C5%81ukasz_Fabia%C5%84ski).[[238]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-jpb-241) Though Arsenal were eliminated on the away goals rule,[[239]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger" \l "cite_note-242) Wenger's adjustments worked in the league as his team went on a run to overhaul Tottenham for a second successive season.[[238]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-jpb-241) A win on the final day against Newcastle United secured fourth position, which Wenger described as a "relief".[[240]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-243)

Wenger in 2016

Arsenal opened the [2013–14](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2013-14_Arsenal_F.C._season) season with a home defeat to [Aston Villa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aston_Villa_F.C.), which prompted boos from the supporters.[[241]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-astv-244) The club's transfer inactivity over the summer was criticised, but Wenger assessed: "We could have won the game today with the players on the pitch, I'm convinced of that."[[241]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-astv-244) In the final week of the transfer window, he re-signed Flamini and sanctioned the club record signing of [Mesut Özil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mesut_%C3%96zil) from Real Madrid, totalling £42.5 million.[[242]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-245)Wenger was instrumental in the latter deal; he phoned and spoke to the German in his native language, convincing him that a move to England would enhance his career.[[243]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-246) Arsenal's form thereafter improved and [Aaron Ramsey](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aaron_Ramsey)'s goalscoring spree elevated the team to first position by the New Year. Poor performances in the big games, however, blighted Arsenal's title credentials, with a 6–0 loss to Chelsea at [Stamford Bridge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stamford_Bridge_(stadium)) being described as "a good hiding [as] you don't prepare all week to experience that."[[244]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-247) The defeat marked Wenger's 1,000th match in charge of Arsenal.[[245]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-248) Arsenal consolidated fourth position in the league, and Wenger guided his team to FA Cup success, as they came from two goals down to beat[Hull City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hull_City_A.F.C.) in the final, and clinch Arsenal their first trophy in nine years.[[246]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTECross2015201–2-249) At the end of the season, Wenger signed another three-year extension to his Arsenal contract.[[247]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-250) He strengthened the squad by signing[Alexis Sánchez](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexis_S%C3%A1nchez) from Barcelona in July 2014, and during the course of [2014–15](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2014%E2%80%9315_Arsenal_F.C._season), promoted [Francis Coquelin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_Coquelin) and [Héctor Bellerín](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/H%C3%A9ctor_Beller%C3%ADn) into the first team.[[248]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTECross2015224–34-251)[[249]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-252) Wenger won his sixth FA Cup in May 2015, which placed him alongside [George Ramsay](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Ramsay) as the most successful manager in the competition's history.[[250]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-253) Wenger further guided the club to improved league finishes in the following two seasons, finishing runners-up in the [2015–16](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015%E2%80%9316_Premier_League) season.

Wenger financed moves for [Granit Xhaka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Granit_Xhaka) and [Shkodran Mustafi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shkodran_Mustafi) in the summer of 2016 for a combined £65 million, rendering the pair one of Arsenal's most expensive ever signings, as Wenger hoped to guide the club to their first league title win in over thirteen years [the following season](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016%E2%80%9317_Arsenal_F.C._season).[[251]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-Granit_Xhaka-254)[[252]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-255) Although Arsenal began strongly in the league, losing only once until December, back-to-back defeats to [Everton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Everton_F.C.) and [Manchester City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.) resulted in Arsenal losing their stronghold on the league. Wenger also served a four-match touchline ban and had to pay a £25,000 fine after pushing referee [Anthony Taylor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthony_Taylor_(referee)) during a win at home against [Burnley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burnley_F.C.).[[253]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-256) Further defeats to Chelsea and Liverpool all but rendered Arsenal out of the title race, and left qualification to the Champions League threatened by March. On 30 April, Arsenal lost to main rivals[Tottenham](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tottenham_Hotspur_F.C.) which had confirmed the latter had finished above them in the [Premier League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Premier_League) for the first time since the[1994–95 FA Premier League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1994%E2%80%9395_FA_Premier_League) season.[[254]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-257) The following month also saw them fail to finish in the top four since the[1996–97 FA Premier League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1996%E2%80%9397_FA_Premier_League) season.[[255]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-258) On 27 May 2017, Wenger became the most successful manager in the history of the FA Cup as Arsenal beat Premier League winners Chelsea 2–1 at [Wembley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wembley_Stadium) through goals from [Alexis Sánchez](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexis_S%C3%A1nchez) and[Aaron Ramsey](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aaron_Ramsey). The victory represented a further record for Wenger, as Arsenal too, became the most successful club in the competition's history as they won the competition for the 13th time.[[256]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-259) Four days following the win, Wenger signed a contract extension until 2019.[[257]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-260)

In the summer of 2017, Wenger brought in two signings; [Alexandre Lacazette](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexandre_Lacazette) for a fee of £45m, the club's most expensive signing and [Sead Kolašinac](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sead_Kola%C5%A1inac) on a free transfer from [Schalke 04](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FC_Schalke_04).[[258]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-261)[[259]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-262) On 6 August 2017, Wenger won his 7th [FA Community Shield](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_FA_Community_Shield) as manager as Arsenal beat Chelsea 4–1 on penalties following a 1–1 score at full time.[[260]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-263) However, in the [2017–18 FA Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017%E2%80%9318_FA_Cup), Arsenal lost to [Nottingham Forest](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nottingham_Forest) in the third round of the FA Cup, and again stood well outside the top four in the Premier League.[[261]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-264)

Wenger announced on 20 April 2018 that he would step down as Arsenal manager at the end of the [2017–18 season](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017%E2%80%9318_Arsenal_F.C._season).[[262]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-265)

Approach and philosophy

**Tactics**

Wenger was inspired by Borussia Mönchengladbach as a child and was later influenced by [Total Football](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Total_Football), a playing style developed by [Rinus Michels](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rinus_Michels) at [Ajax](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AFC_Ajax) in the 1970s.[[263]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-266) He recollected the team as having "perfect players everywhere and that was the sort of football I wanted to be playing myself".[[264]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-ajax-267) At Monaco, he employed a [4–4–2](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Formation_(association_football)#4–4–2) formation, though he did trial [4–3–3](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Formation_(association_football)#4–3–3), akin to Michels'.[[265]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-268) Wenger is an advocate of 4–4–2 as "no other formation is as efficient in covering space",[[266]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger" \l "cite_note-FOOTNOTEVialliMarcotti2006182-269) but has used it sparingly in recent seasons.[[267]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-270)

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| [Almunia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manuel_Almunia)  [Sagna](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bacary_Sagna)  [Gallas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Gallas)  [Touré](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kolo_Tour%C3%A9)  [Clichy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ga%C3%ABl_Clichy)  [Rosický](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tom%C3%A1%C5%A1_Rosick%C3%BD)  [Fàbregas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cesc_F%C3%A0bregas)  [Flamini](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mathieu_Flamini)  [Eboué](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emmanuel_Ebou%C3%A9)  [Hleb](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_Hleb)  [Adebayor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emmanuel_Adebayor) |
| Arsenal's line up against[Reading](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reading_F.C.) in November 2007.[[268]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-271) Wenger's decision to play [Alexander Hleb](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_Hleb) further up in games increased the team's efficiency.[[269]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-272) |

Throughout his managerial career, Wenger has trusted his players to perform and learn from their own mistakes,[[270]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger" \l "cite_note-FOOTNOTELawrence201488-273) a quality Vieira regards as his biggest strength and weakness.[[271]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-274) Wenger encourages sportsmen to show intuition, and makes observations rather than explicitly giving orders.[[272]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-wengi-275) Campbell reflected that his former manager "puts a lot of onus on players to change the game" and "he wants certain players – especially in the last third – to be able to produce it and give something different".[[273]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTECross201562-276) When Wenger joined Arsenal, he spoke of his desire to see "real, modern football. That means compact lines, of zones, of quick, coordinated movements with a good technique."[[274]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTEPalmer20085-277) He characteristically focuses on the strengths of his teams, rather than looking for areas to exploit the opposition.[[270]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTELawrence201488-273)

"For me, football is first and foremost a game. It has a framework, yet should leave some part for freedom of expression. In France nowadays we seem to have found the right balance between team organisation and the freedom allowed to the player."

*Wenger in an interview with*[*The Sunday Times*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Sunday_Times)*, April 2004.*[[272]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger" \l "cite_note-wengi-275)

During a match against Borussia Mönchengladbach in 1996, Wenger presided over Rice's caretaker duties at Arsenal, and ordered the team to switch from their preferred [3–5–2](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Formation_(association_football)#3–5–2) formation to 4–4–2.[[272]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-wengi-275) The tactical change did not have its desired effect, as Arsenal lost the game having led before Wenger's half-time instruction.[[272]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-wengi-275) For much of the 1996–97 season, Arsenal continued to play 3–5–2 as it was the only formation the defenders were comfortable with, as well as injuries unsettling the side.[[275]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-278)[[276]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-french-279) In Wenger's second season at the club, he reinstated 4–4–2 and focused on strengthening the front six, by signing wingers Overmars and [Luís Boa Morte](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lu%C3%ADs_Boa_Morte) and partnering Vieira with Petit.[[276]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-french-279)[[277]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-280) According to [Jonathan Wilson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jonathan_Wilson_(writer)), the system was similar to 4–3–3, as Overmars often pushed higher up the field and Parlour played alongside Vieira and Petit to solidify the midfield.[[278]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTEWilson2013282-281) Needing to compensate deficiencies in attack the following season, Wenger relied on his experienced defence to direct games, which conceded 17 goals in 38 league matches.[[279]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-282) From then on, Wenger deployed an unconventional 4–4–2 with a greater emphasis on attack and movement; his teams between 2001 and 2004 were dominant on the left flank.[[280]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-283)

By the 2005–06 season, clubs in England were increasingly in favour of using the [4–5–1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Formation_(association_football)#4–5–12) system.[[281]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-284) Wenger, having earlier suggested he would never resort to a negative system,[[282]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger" \l "cite_note-285) later adopted the formation for Champions League matches.[[283]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-clfinal-286) The decision to pack the midfield and play a lone striker resulted in Arsenal reaching the final.[[283]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-clfinal-286) With Fábregas breaking into the first team, Wenger chose to deviate from their counter-attacking style, to a more possession based one.[[284]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTECox201194-287) In 2009–10, he instituted a fluid 4–3–3 formation to benefit from Fàbregas' creativity,[[285]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-288) and since the player's departure, had remodelled the system to [4–1–4–1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Formation_(association_football)#4–1–4–1)[[286]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-289) and [4–2–3–1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Formation_(association_football)#4–2–3–1).[[287]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-290) During the latter half of the [2016–17 Premier League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016%E2%80%9317_Premier_League) season, Wenger switched to a 3–4–3 formation first used against [Middlesbrough](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middlesbrough_F.C.) in a 1–2 win.[[288]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-291)

Wenger has been able to implement his entertaining vision of football, particularly at Arsenal. His team's 5–1 win against[Portsmouth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portsmouth_F.C.) in March 2004 was likened to "the magnificently fluid Ajax of the early 70s",[[289]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger" \l "cite_note-292) and greeted with a standing ovation by the opposition supporters, as the Arsenal players left the field.[[290]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-293) Wenger's style of play, however, been criticised for inefficiency and a lack of variation to go with technique.[[291]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-294)[[292]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-295) He is not renowned for making game-changing substitutions, nor has his tactics helped his teams overcome flexible opponents.[[293]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTECox201190,_96-296) His ideals are noticeably different from the pragmatic approach of his rivals, though he has assembled teams to produce disciplined performances, markedly the 2005 FA Cup Final against Manchester United.[[294]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-297) Defeats in the big games during 2013–14 led to Wenger compromising his attack-minded principles in favour of keeping it tight.[[295]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-298) The team's approach has been less predictable than when it was built around Fàbregas, with the initial predictability allowing [Sir Alex Ferguson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sir_Alex_Ferguson) to devise a template to beat Arsenal, which involved "good players who can intercept".[[296]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-299)

**Preparation**

Wenger leads training sessions, but delegates responsibility to his coaching staff, who predominantly work with the players.[[297]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-trainp-300) He splits the squad into groups, observing and supervising the drills.[[297]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-trainp-300) A typical training session under Wenger lasts 90 minutes, which is timed and staged precisely, and includes coordination techniques, positional play and small-sided games.[[298]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-pract-301) Wenger spends the day before a match focusing on the mental and tactical approach of his squad and varies his training style.[[298]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-pract-301)

Wenger regards a well-balanced diet as an essential part of a player's preparation. He was influenced by his time in Japan, where "the whole way of life there is linked to health. Their diet is basically boiled vegetables, fish and rice. No fat, no sugar. You notice when you live there that there are no fat people".[[299]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-amy-302) At Arsenal, Wenger brought in dieticians to explain the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, and acquired the help of Philippe Boixel, an [osteopath](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Osteopath) for the [France national team](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/France_national_football_team), to realign the players' bodies each month.[[112]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTEPalmer200846-114) Plyometrics, exercises designed to strengthen the muscles, were introduced and Wenger routinely made players stretch before and after matches.[[300]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTECross201520-303) Until 2004, he encouraged his players to take Creatine for increased stamina, later stopping when he noticed side-effects.[[301]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-304) The innovations had a desirable effect on the team as it prolonged the careers of his defence,[[299]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-amy-302) and made Arsenal stronger in the second half of seasons.[[302]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTECross201523-305) Though Wenger's methods were common in Italian football, they had been unsuccessfully trialled in England until his arrival.[[nb 4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-307)

In later years, Wenger's training regime has come under criticism, given his squad's poor injury record.[[304]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-injur-308) From 2004–05 to 2014–15, Arsenal's players lost 13,161 days through injury, the most in the Premier League, and significantly more than Chelsea in second (7,217).[[304]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-injur-308) In 2014, Wenger acquired the help of fitness coach Shad Forsythe to solve the problem; statistics revealed a year later that Arsenal's average injury length dropped more than 25% in Forsythe's first season.[[305]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-309)

**Recruitment and spending policy**

Youth development and scouring for talent abroad is central to Wenger's recruitment policy. He relies on a network of scouts and personal contacts to find and attract talented footballers to play under him. Wenger's strategy is aided by data; for instance, the decision to sign Flamini in 2004 came about as he was looking at statistics to find an understudy to Vieira.[[306]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-310) To examine the mental state of a young footballer, he uses psychometric tests conducted by psychologist Jacques Crevoisier once every two years.[[307]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-311) Wenger prides himself on nurturing talent, saying in an interview: "I believe one of the best things about managing people is that we can influence lives in a positive way. That's basically what a manager is about. When I can do that, I am very happy".[[308]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTECross2015167-312)

In his early managerial years, Wenger recognised the potential of football in Africa, which influenced his transfer dealings at Monaco.[[309]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTELawrence2014171-313) On the recommendation of [Claude Le Roy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Claude_Le_Roy), he signed [Liberian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberia) George Weah, who later became the first African to be named [FIFA World Player of the Year](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FIFA_World_Player_of_the_Year).[[310]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERees201466-314) Weah, while receiving his award from FIFA president [João Havelange](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jo%C3%A3o_Havelange) and vice-president [Lennart Johansson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lennart_Johansson) invited Wenger up to the stage, spontaneously giving his medal to the manager, as a token of his appreciation.[[311]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-315) During his final years at Monaco, Wenger worked with [Roger Mendy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roger_Mendy), a[Senegalese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Senegal) defender regarded in 1991 as one of the ten best African footballers by *France Football*,[[310]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERees201466-314) and [Nigerian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria)[Victor Ikpeba](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victor_Ikpeba), a forward who earnt the accolade of [African Player of the Year](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_Player_of_the_Year).[[312]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-316) Wenger also fast-tracked young players such as Petit and [Lilian Thuram](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lilian_Thuram), and handed debuts to Henry and [David Trezeguet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Trezeguet).[[313]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger" \l "cite_note-FOOTNOTERees201467-317)

[Lilian Thuram](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lilian_Thuram) made his debut for Monaco under Wenger.

In England, Wenger has used his extensive knowledge of the European transfer market and rulings – particularly in his native France – to recruit players. His first purchase as Arsenal manager was Anelka from Paris Saint-Germain for £500,000, a deal which upset the French club as they received little remuneration.[[314]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTEHare2003184-318) The player's subsequent sale to Real Madrid just two years later for £23.5 million highlighted Wenger's shrewdness in the transfer market.[[315]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-319)[[316]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-320) He remained in contact with Guillou's Abidjan-based academy, where he discovered future Arsenal players Touré and [Emmanuel Eboué](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emmanuel_Ebou%C3%A9),[[317]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-321) and successfully persuaded Fàbregas and [Hector Bellerín](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hector_Beller%C3%ADn), amongst other [La Masia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/La_Masia)graduates, to leave Barcelona and join him.[[318]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-322) Wenger's recruitment of young players came under criticism from Bayern Munich chairman [Karl-Heinz Rummenigge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karl-Heinz_Rummenigge), who disputed it was tantamount to [child trafficking](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trafficking_of_children).[[319]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-Karl-323) Wenger refuted the analogy and said: "Look at[Santa Cruz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roque_Santa_Cruz) at Blackburn. Ask him what age he came to Bayern Munich. Then you have an answer for Rummenigge."[[319]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-Karl-323)

When Arsenal moved to the Emirates Stadium, Wenger prioritised investing in youth instead of purchasing experienced players.[[320]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-324) He described it as a way of creating an "identity" with Arsenal: "I felt it would be an interesting experiment to see players grow together with these qualities, and with a love for the club. It was an idealistic vision of the world of football".[[321]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-325) The departure of Dein, coupled with the saturation of the transfer market, meant Wenger struggled to recruit players as efficiently as before.[[322]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTECross2015104–6-326) The youth set-up did not replicate the success of the late 1990s and early 2000s, though Arsenal consistently finished fourth or higher in the league between 2006 and 2011. The club earnt a reputation of functioning as a "[feeder club](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Farm_team)" to bigger teams, as Wenger struggled to keep hold of his best players.[[323]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-327) He described this period as "very sensitive" because of the financial restrictions that came with the stadium move.[[324]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-328) Since the 2011–12 season, Wenger has reverted to buying proven talent,[[325]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger" \l "cite_note-329) and blended experience with youth in domestic cup competitions.[[326]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-330) Arsenal have benefited from increased revenue since the Emirates move, and negotiating new sponsorship deals has allowed Wenger to make marquee signings such as Özil, Sánchez, [Granit Xhaka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Granit_Xhaka), [Shkodran Mustafi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shkodran_Mustafi), [Alexandre Lacazette](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexandre_Lacazette) and [Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pierre-Emerick_Aubameyang).

Observing Wenger's transfer policy in 2009, Sir Alex Ferguson commented that it lacked balance and needed defensive players to solidfy the Arsenal team.[[327]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-331) The players Wenger recruits have often been criticised for their character and leadership capabilities; footballer [Joey Barton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joey_Barton) suggested it was because the manager discouraged them from commanding: "Sometimes you need someone to galvanise and that might be a shouter and bawler. It may not be Arsene's way, but I think they lack that".[[328]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-332) Wenger is perceived as frugal given his inactivity in transfer windows, but he has denied the stereotype: "Of course people say always to buy but you cannot make careers [and you cannot] buy every time you have an injured player. You know I have the wrong reputation. I'm not scared to spend money. The job of a manager is not to spend as much money".[[329]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-333)

Relations with others

Wenger's relations with his fellow football managers and officials have not always been genial. In a joint-interview with *The Times* and *Daily Mail* in 2009, he explained that his reluctance to trust other managers had been mistaken for discourtesy: "There are managers I respect, and I respect what they do, but you cannot be completely friendly and open up".[[188]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-rds-191) He is well known for his rivalry with former Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson;[[330]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger" \l "cite_note-334) beginning in 1997, the dispute reached its culmination in the "[Pizzagate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_the_Buffet)" incident at Old Trafford in October 2004.[[331]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-335) After Manchester United ended Arsenal's 49-game unbeaten Premier League run after being awarded a late penalty, Cesc Fabregas threw a pizza at the opposition in the tunnel.[[332]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-336)[[333]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-337) Wenger accused United striker [Ruud van Nistelrooy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ruud_van_Nistelrooy) of being "a cheat" in a post-match television interview, and was reprimanded with a £15,000 fine by the Football Association.[[334]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-338) Both managers later agreed to tone down their words, in an attempt to defuse the rivalry.[[335]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-339) In his autobiography, Ferguson wrote that the events of "Pizzagate" had "scrambled Arsène's brain" and caused their relationship to break down for almost five years.[[336]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-340) By 2009, Wenger noted his rivalry with Ferguson had become "respectful" as Arsenal had ceased competing with Manchester United for major honours.[[188]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-rds-191)

Wenger and Mourinho during a match between their teams in October 2014.

During October and November 2005, Wenger became embroiled in a war of words with Chelsea manager [José Mourinho](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jos%C3%A9_Mourinho). Mourinho accused Wenger of having an "unprofessional obsession" with Chelsea and labelled him a "[voyeur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Voyeurism)."[[337]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-341)[[338]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-voyeur-342)Mourinho was quoted as saying, "He's worried about us, he's always talking about us – it's [always] Chelsea".[[338]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-voyeur-342) Wenger responded by pointing out he was only answering journalists' questions about Chelsea, and described Mourinho's attitude as "disrespectful".[[339]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-343) Mourinho later apologised and clarified that he regretted his "voyeur" comment; Wenger accepted the apology.[[340]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-344) In 2014, Mourinho reopened his feud with Wenger by calling him a "specialist in failure".[[341]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-sif-345) This was in response to Wenger's comments that Chelsea were favourites for the Premier League and managers did not want to take responsibility if they failed to win the title.[[341]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-sif-345) Wenger said Mourinho's comments were "silly and disrespectful" and had embarrassed Chelsea.[[342]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-346) When asked if he regretted his remark, Mourinho replied: "You have to ask him if he regrets the comments he made".[[343]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-347) In October 2014, during a Premier League match between Arsenal and Chelsea, Wenger was involved in a touchline spat with Mourinho.[[344]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-348) Wenger later apologised for his behaviour.[[345]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-349)

Wenger has directed his anger towards referees when decisions have not gone his team's way. In August 2000, he was charged with "alleged threatening behaviour and physical intimidation" towards fourth official [Paul Taylor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Taylor_(referee)), after Arsenal's 1–0 defeat at Sunderland on the opening day of the 2000–01 season.[[346]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-350) An FA disciplinary commission found Wenger guilty; he received a 12-match touchline ban and a fine of four weeks' salary.[[347]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-351) He successfully appealed the ban, but was reprimanded and fined £10,000 for his actions.[[348]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-352) Following the 2007 Football League Cup Final, he called a[linesman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assistant_referee_(association_football)) a liar, for stating [Emmanuel Adebayor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emmanuel_Adebayor) aimed a punch at Chelsea's [Frank Lampard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank_Lampard).[[349]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-353) This led to an investigation by the FA, a fine of £2,500 and a warning.[[350]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-354)

In March 2011, Wenger was charged with improper conduct by UEFA, over comments made to referee [Massimo Busacca](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Massimo_Busacca), after his team's defeat to Barcelona.[[351]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-355) He was fined [€](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euro)10,000 and suspended for one UEFA club competition match; however, the ban was later extended to a further two games, after Wenger was found guilty of communicating with Arsenal's bench while serving a touchline ban against [Udinese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Udinese_Calcio).[[352]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-356)[[353]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-357) A year later, Wenger was charged for post-match comments made about referee [Damir Skomina](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Damir_Skomina), in Arsenal's defeat to Milan in the Champions League.[[354]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-ACMilan-358) He was fined £33,000 and handed a three-match touchline ban in the competition.[[354]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-ACMilan-358)

Plaudits and legacy

Arsenal supporters hold up cards that spell out "In Arsène we trust".

At Arsenal, Wenger has enjoyed a great deal of support and backing from the club board of directors, who have demonstrated exceptional faith in the manager and his long-term vision.[[355]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-359) His arrival at the club prompted a change in their football style – once derided as "boring, boring Arsenal" for a lack of creativity,[[356]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-360) pundit [Alan Hansen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alan_Hansen) described the 2004 team as "quite simply the most fluid, devastating team the British Isles has seen".[[357]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-361) [Brian Clough](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brian_Clough) once quipped: "Arsenal caress a football the way I dreamed of caressing[Marilyn Monroe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marilyn_Monroe)".[[358]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTEShaw2014109-362) Wenger himself reflected that his greatest legacy at Arsenal would be the style he implemented.[[359]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-363) Supporters regularly display banners such as "Arsène knows" and "In Arsène we trust" during home matches, though there have been a growing number of protests against his management.[[360]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-364)

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| --- |
| **External audio** |
| "[Arsène Wenger – Profile](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b013f7pf)" First broadcast on [BBC Radio 4](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BBC_Radio_4) in August 2011 |

Dein described Wenger as the most important manager in the club's history: "Arsène's a miracle worker. He's revolutionised the club. He's turned players into world-class players. Since he has been here, we have seen football from another planet".[[361]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-365) Former [Watford](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Watford_F.C.) manager [Graham Taylor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Graham_Taylor_(footballer)) said of Wenger in 2002: "I believe his biggest contribution to football is getting across the idea that players have to prepare right and look after themselves".[[362]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-366) Wenger's loyalty towards [financial fair play](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UEFA_Financial_Fair_Play_Regulations) and handling of Arsenal's debt since their stadium move has earnt him praise, not least from American baseball general manager [Billy Beane](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billy_Beane), who in particular lauded his transfer strategy.[[363]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-367) A survey in 2007 found Wenger was the only Premier League manager to have made a profit on transfers,[[364]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-368) and between 2004 and 2009, he made an average profit of £4.4 million per season on transfers, far more than any other club.[[365]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-369)

Bust of Wenger at the Emirates Stadium.

Though Wenger has established Arsenal as UEFA Champions League regulars, he has yet to win the European Cup, or translated his domestic success in other continental competitions – often considered a blemish on his managerial career.[[366]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-370) Writer Michael Calvin argues despite the European failings, Wenger should still be considered one of the greats in football: "[He] has been the best, most influential manager of the modern era. His job has involved managing change, and all the hypocrisy which comes with that. In a world where incoherence is routinely hailed as innovation, he has been a true visionary".[[367]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-371) Wenger's stubbornness to follow his idealistic vision of football has been heavily criticised during his second decade at Arsenal. In 2016, [Henry Winter](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Winter) reasoned the Frenchman's methods no longer gave him an advantage over others, and he needed to adapt or resign.[[368]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-wint-372) Winter also suggested the club was content with lucrative top-four finishes, and the manager needed tough individuals to challenge him.[[368]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-wint-372) Ferguson however expressed admiration in Wenger's consistency and obstinate nature: "He stays with what he believes in. And I think people who do that are outstanding coaches".[[369]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-373)

Wenger was awarded France's highest decoration, the [Légion d'Honneur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/L%C3%A9gion_d%27Honneur), in 2002.[[370]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-374) In the [2003 Birthday Honours](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2003_Birthday_Honours), he and fellow Frenchman [Gérard Houllier](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/G%C3%A9rard_Houllier) were appointed honorary [Officers of the Order of the British Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Order_of_the_British_Empire) for services to football.[[371]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-obe-375) At Arsenal's valedictory campaign at Highbury throughout the 2005–06 season, supporters showed appreciation by holding a "Wenger Day" as one of various themed matchdays. It was held on his 56th birthday, on 22 October 2005, in a league match against Manchester City.[[372]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-376) Wenger was inducted into the [English Football Hall of Fame](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_Football_Hall_of_Fame) in 2006, along with former England manager [Ron Greenwood](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ron_Greenwood).[[373]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-fame-377) Furthermore, a commissioned bronze bust of Wenger, similar to the earlier version of [Herbert Chapman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herbert_Chapman), was unveiled as a tribute to him by the board of directors of Arsenal, at the club's [annual general meeting](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Annual_general_meeting) in October 2007.[[374]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-378) Wenger had an asteroid, [33179 Arsènewenger](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/33179_Ars%C3%A8newenger), named after him by astronomer [Ian P. Griffin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ian_P._Griffin), who states Arsenal as his favourite football club.[[375]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-379)[[376]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-380)

In May 2016, the [Stade Arsène Wenger](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stade_Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger) was officially opened near Strasbourg, where Wenger was born. The stadium is the new home of USL Dippinheim and holds a capacity of 500 people.[[377]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-381)

**Increase in worldwide players**

Wenger was one of the first managers in English football to scout abroad for talent. His double-winning team of 1998 was described by editor [Jason Cowley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jason_Cowley) as "a model of racial and multicultural integration. They were the first truly globalised team".[[378]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-382) Richard Jolly writing for [*The National*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_National_(Abu_Dhabi)) added that Wenger aided the Premier League's globalisation and "showed the merit of hiring foreign managers on the basis of their record abroad".[[379]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-383) Wenger himself felt he had changed attitudes towards foreign managers in England:

There was a history and belief in England that the foreign manager could not be successful. Now you have a different feeling, now you think only foreign managers can be successful. That is wrong as well. I believe I contributed to the change in attitude about foreign managers. That can look pretentious but I don't think it is at all. I can show some articles where people tried to prove that the foreign managers can never win an English championship. That has changed and I have certainly contributed to that. But I am also one of the few who also defends English managers.[[380]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-384)

The continued influx of foreign players at Arsenal has, however, attracted criticism. In a league match against [Crystal Palace](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crystal_Palace_F.C.) on 14 February 2005, Arsenal fielded a 16-man squad that featured no British players for the first time in the club's history. This prompted [Professional Footballers' Association](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Professional_Footballers%27_Association) (PFA) chief executive [Gordon Taylor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gordon_Taylor_(footballer)) to express it would begin "a worrying pattern for English football".[[381]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-385) A year later, manager [Alan Pardew](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alan_Pardew) commented that Arsenal's Champions League success was "not necessarily a triumph for British football".[[382]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-386) Wenger saw the issue of nationality as irrelevant and said, "When you represent a club, it's about values and qualities, not about passports".[[383]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-387) Other pundits including [Trevor Brooking](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trevor_Brooking), the director of football development at the FA, have defended Wenger. Brooking has stated that a lack of English players in "one of England's most successful clubs" was more of a reflection on England's limited talent pool rather than on Wenger, an opinion shared by youth team coach and ex-Liverpool player [Craig Johnston](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Craig_Johnston).[[384]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-388)[[385]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-389)

Several English players have started their careers at Arsenal under Wenger, such as [Ashley Cole](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ashley_Cole), [David Bentley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Bentley) and[Matthew Upson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matthew_Upson),[[386]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-390) and many continue to build careers at the club, namely [Jack Wilshere](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jack_Wilshere).[[387]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-391) Wenger commented that an advantage of building his team around British players was the guarantee of stability.[[388]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-392)

**Team indiscipline and fair play**

In his early years at Arsenal, Wenger was scrutinised for the club's poor disciplinary record; Winter in 2003 described it as "little short of a crime-wave",[[389]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger" \l "cite_note-393) while chairman [Peter Hill-Wood](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Hill-Wood) admitted the players' conduct was unacceptable.[[390]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-394)Between September 1996 and February 2014, the team received 100 [red cards](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Misconduct_(association_football)). Wenger has often tried to defend his players, involved in controversial incidents on the field, by saying that he has not seen the incident; this is an option he resorts to when there is no "rational explanation" to defend him, and that he has the player's best interests in mind.[[391]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-395)[[392]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-396) However, in both 2004 and 2005, Arsenal topped the Premier League's Fair Play League tables for sporting behaviour and finished second in 2006.[[393]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-397)[[394]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-398)[[395]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-399) Their record as one of the most sporting clubs in the division continued up to 2009, where the team featured in the top four of the Fair Play table.[[396]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-400)[[397]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-401) Wenger's team again topped the fair play table for the 2009–10 season.[[398]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-402)

In February 1999, Wenger offered [Sheffield United](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sheffield_United_F.C.) a replay of their FA Cup fifth round match immediately after the match had finished, due to the controversial circumstances in which it was won.[[399]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-replay-403) The decisive goal was scored by Overmars after Kanu failed to return the ball to the opposition; it was kicked into touch to allow Sheffield United's [Lee Morris](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lee_Morris_(footballer)) to receive treatment for an injury.[[400]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-404) Arsenal went on to win the replayed match 2–1.[[401]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-405)

Personal life

Wenger was married to former basketball player Annie Brosterhous, with whom he has one daughter, Léa (born 1997).[[402]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-406) He lives in [Totteridge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Totteridge), London.[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-rees-guardian-8) Wenger and Brosterhous separated in 2015.[[403]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-407) He spends his leisure time predominantly studying football matches, stating that he "watches games on most days", and has an interest in politics.[[404]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-408) Away from managerial duties, he acted as a [football consultant](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Color_commentator#Europe) for French television station [TF1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TF1) from 2004 to 2014,[[405]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-409) and has worked for [beIN Sports](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BeIN_Sports) since 2016.[[406]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-410) Wenger is a world [brand ambassador](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Promotional_model) for [FIFA World Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FIFA_World_Cup)sponsor [Castrol](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Castrol).[[407]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-411) As part of the arrangement, he has conducted several training camps for international youth teams worldwide to provide input to the [Castrol Performance Index](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Castrol_Performance_Index), FIFA's official ratings system.[[408]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-412)

He has authored a book on football management exclusively for the Japanese market, *Shōsha no Esupuri* (勝者のエスプリ *lit. The Spirit of Conquest*) in English, published by Japan Broadcast Publishing (a subsidiary of [NHK](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NHK)) in August 1997.[[409]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger" \l "cite_note-413) The book highlights his managerial philosophy, ideals, and values, as well as his thoughts on Japanese football and the game as a whole.[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-rees-guardian-8)

Wenger is a [Roman Catholic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Catholic), and he attributes his outlook and values to his religious upbringing.[[410]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-414) He grew up speaking French and German, and has since learnt English, Italian, and Spanish.[[411]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-415) He also knows some Japanese.[[412]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-416)

In 2010, Wenger appealed for privacy after a British newspaper alleged he had an affair with a French singer. Wenger said in a statement that he wished to deal with the matter privately.[[413]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-417)

Career statistics

**Playing statistics**

Source:[[414]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger" \l "cite_note-database-418)[[415]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-Arsène_Wenger-419)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Appearances and goals by club, season and competition** | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Club** | **Season** | **League** | | | **National Cup** | | [**Europe**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UEFA#Club) | | **Total** | |
| **Division** | **Apps** | **Goals** | **Apps** | **Goals** | **Apps** | **Goals** | **Apps** | **Goals** |
| Mutzig | 1969–70 | [CFA](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Championnat_de_France_amateur_de_football_(1948-1970)) |  |  |  |  | — | |  |  |
| 1970–71 | [Division 3](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Championnat_de_France_de_football_de_Division_3_(1970-1993)) |  |  |  |  | — | |  |  |
| 1971–72 | Division 3 |  |  |  |  | — | |  |  |
| 1972–73 | Division 3 |  |  | 3 | 1 | — | | 3 | 1 |
| **Total** | |  |  | **3** | **1** | **—** | | **3** | **1** |
| [FC Mulhouse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FC_Mulhouse) | [1973–74](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1973%E2%80%9374_French_Division_2) | [Ligue 2](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ligue_2) | 25 | 2 |  |  | — | | 25 | 2 |
| [1974–75](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1974%E2%80%9375_French_Division_2) | Ligue 2 | 31 | 2 |  |  | — | | 31 | 2 |
| **Total** | | **56** | **4** |  |  | **—** | | **56** | **4** |
| [ASPV Strasbourg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ASPV_Strasbourg) | 1975–76 | Bas-Rhin |  |  | 3 | 1 | — | | 3 | 1 |
| 1976–77 | [Division d'Honneur](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ligue_d%27Alsace_de_football_association) |  |  | 5 | 0 | — | | 5 | 0 |
| [1977–78](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Championnat_de_France_de_football_de_Division_3_1977-1978) | [Division 3](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Championnat_de_France_de_football_de_Division_3_(1970-1993)) |  |  |  |  | — | |  |  |
| **Total** | |  |  | **8** | **1** | **—** | | **8** | **1** |
| [RC Strasbourg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RC_Strasbourg) | [1978–79](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1978%E2%80%9379_French_Division_1) | [Ligue 1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ligue_1) | 2 | 0 |  |  | 1[[a]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-420) | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| [1979–80](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1979%E2%80%9380_French_Division_1) | Ligue 1 | 1 | 0 |  |  |  |  | 1 | 0 |
| [1980–81](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1980%E2%80%9381_French_Division_1) | Ligue 1 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 0 | — | | 9 | 0 |
| **Total** | | **11** | **0** | **1** | **0** | **1** | **0** | **13** | **0** |
| **Career total** | | | **67** | **4** | **12** | **2** | **1** | **0** | **80** | **6** |

* 1. [**Jump up^**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_ref-420) Appearance in [UEFA Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1978%E2%80%9379_UEFA_Cup)

**Managerial statistics**

*As of match played 26 April 2018*[[414]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-database-418)[[416]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-421)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Managerial record by team and tenure** | | | | | | | |
| **Team** | **From** | **To** | **Record** | | | | |
| **P** | **W** | **D**[[nb 5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-423) | **L** | **Win %** |
| [AS Nancy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AS_Nancy) | 1 July 1984 | 1 July 1987 | 114 | 33 | 30 | 51 | 28.9 |
| [AS Monaco](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AS_Monaco_FC) | 1 July 1987 | 17 September 1994 | 266 | 130 | 53 | 83 | 48.9 |
| [Nagoya Grampus Eight](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nagoya_Grampus)[[418]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-424) | 1 February 1995 | 30 September 1996 | 87 | 49 | 4 | 34 | 56.3 |
| [Arsenal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arsenal_F.C.) | 1 October 1996 | *Present* | 1,230 | 705 | 280 | 245 | 57.3 |
| **Total** | | | **1,697** | **917** | **367** | **413** | **54.0** |

Honours

**Playing honours**

**AS Mutzig**[[21]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger" \l "cite_note-ASM-21)[[22]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-RCS-22)

* Coupe d'Alsace: 1971

**Vauban**[[22]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger" \l "cite_note-RCS-22)

* Coupe d'Alsace: 1977
* [Division d'Honneur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Division_d%27Honneur) [(Alsace)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_football_league_system): 1977

**Strasbourg**[[419]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger" \l "cite_note-425)

* [Ligue 1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ligue_1): [1978–79](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1978%E2%80%9379_French_Division_1)
* Coupe d'Alsace: 1980[[22]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-RCS-22)

**Managerial honours**

**Monaco**

* [Ligue 1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ligue_1): [1987–88](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1987%E2%80%9388_French_Division_1)
* [Coupe de France](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coupe_de_France): [1990–91](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1991_Coupe_de_France_Final)

**Nagoya Grampus**

* [Emperor's Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emperor%27s_Cup): [1995](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1995_Emperor%27s_Cup)
* [J-League Super Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_Super_Cup): 1996

**Arsenal**

* [FA Premier League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Premier_League) (3): [1997–98](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1997%E2%80%9398_FA_Premier_League), [2001–02](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2001%E2%80%9302_FA_Premier_League), [2003–04](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2003%E2%80%9304_FA_Premier_League)
* [FA Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FA_Cup) (7): [1997–98](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1998_FA_Cup_Final), [2001–02](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2002_FA_Cup_Final), [2002–03](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2003_FA_Cup_Final), [2004–05](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2005_FA_Cup_Final), [2013–14](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2014_FA_Cup_Final), [2014–15](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015_FA_Cup_Final), [2016–17](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_FA_Cup_Final)
* [FA Community Shield](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FA_Community_Shield) (7): [1998](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1998_FA_Charity_Shield), [1999](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1999_FA_Charity_Shield), [2002](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2002_FA_Community_Shield), [2004](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2004_FA_Community_Shield), [2014](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2014_FA_Community_Shield), [2015](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015_FA_Community_Shield), [2017](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_FA_Community_Shield)

**Individual**

* [J. League Manager of the Year](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J._League_Manager_of_the_Year): 1995[[420]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-426)
* [Officer of the Order of the British Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Order_of_the_British_Empire): 2003[[371]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-obe-375)
* [Onze d'Or Coach of The Year](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Onze_d%27Or#Coach_of_the_Year): 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004[[421]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-427)
* [Legion d'Honneur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legion_d%27Honneur): 2002.[[422]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-428)
* [Premier League Manager of the Season](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Premier_League_Manager_of_the_Season):[[423]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-Wenger-429) 1998, 2002, 2004
* [LMA Manager of the Year](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LMA_Manager_of_the_Year): 2001–02, 2003–04[[424]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-430)[[425]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-431)
* [BBC Sports Personality of the Year Coach Award](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BBC_Sports_Personality_of_the_Year_Coach_Award): 2002, 2004[[426]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-432)[[427]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-433)
* London Football Awards: Outstanding Contribution to a London Club – 2015[[428]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-434)
* [World Manager of the Year](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Soccer_Awards#World_Manager_of_the_Year): 1998[[429]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-435)
* [Freedom of Islington](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islington): 2004[[430]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-436)
* [FWA Tribute Award](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FWA_Tribute_Award): 2005[[431]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-437)
* [English Football Hall of Fame](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_Football_Hall_of_Fame): 2006[[373]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-fame-377)
* [France Football](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/France_Football): Manager of the Year – 2008[[432]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-Arsene*-438)
* [IFFHS World Coach of the Decade](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IFFHS_World%27s_Best_Club_Coach): 2001–2010[[433]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-439)
* [Facebook FA Premier League Manager of the Year](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Facebook_Football_Awards): 2014–15[[434]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-440)
* [Premier League Manager of the Month](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Premier_League_Manager_of_the_Month):[[423]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-Wenger-429) March 1998, April 1998, October 2000, April 2002, September 2002, August 2003, February 2004, August 2004, September 2007, December 2007, February 2011, February 2012, September 2013, March 2015, October 2015

See also

* [List of English football championship winning managers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_English_football_championship_winning_managers)
* [List of FA Cup winning managers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_FA_Cup_winning_managers)

Notes

* 1. [**Jump up^**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_ref-29) The academic degree awarded to Wenger is ambiguous. Several publications, such as *The Independent* and *The Economist* have commented that he completed a master's degree (maîtrise) in economics (sciences économiques).[[25]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-25)[[26]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-26)Others, such as French magazine *FF Sport U* imply that Wenger was awarded a [Licence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bachelor%27s_degree#France).[[27]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-27) The *Sunday Mirror* state that he holds an additional degree in [electrical engineering](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electrical_engineering), but no such information is given on his Arsenal profile or shared in publicised interviews.[[28]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-28) Wenger is also said to have spent a six-month placement at [Stanford University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stanford_University), according to the[*Evening Standard*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evening_Standard), who interviewed his parents.[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-stanf-12)
  2. [**Jump up^**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_ref-106) It is a common misconception that the *Evening Standard* greeted Wenger's appointment with the headline "Arsène Who?", when in actual fact it was printed on its billboard. The newspaper instead ran a piece that explained how to pronounce his name.[[104]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTECross201516-105)
  3. [**Jump up^**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_ref-175) Wenger reiterated his belief that Arsenal could go unbeaten in September 2002, telling reporters: "It's not impossible as AC Milan once did it but I can't see why it's so shocking to say it. Do you think Manchester United, Liverpool or Chelsea don't dream that as well?"[[172]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-174)
  4. [**Jump up^**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_ref-307) [Graeme Souness](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Graeme_Souness), for instance in the early 1990s, changed the players' eating habits at Liverpool, introduced new training methods and monitored their lifestyles.[[303]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERush2011345-306) Some of the senior players were unreceptive to his ideas at first; [Ian Rush](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ian_Rush) retorted "But we won the double on egg and chips," when told about the new menu.[[303]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-FOOTNOTERush2011345-306) Souness' time at Liverpool was brief compared to his predecessors, lasting under three years.
  5. [**Jump up^**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_ref-423) At the time of Wenger's tenure in Japan, the result of a J-League match could not be a draw. In the event of scores being level at the end of 90 minutes, matches would be decided by extra time and penalties.[[417]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_note-422)

References

* 1. ^ [Jump up to:***a***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_ref-FOOTNOTEPalmer20089_1-0) [***b***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_ref-FOOTNOTEPalmer20089_1-1) [***c***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_ref-FOOTNOTEPalmer20089_1-2) [Palmer (2008)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#CITEREFPalmer2008), p. 9.
  2. [**Jump up^**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_ref-2) [*"Arsène Wenger – Player Profile"*](http://au.eurosport.com/football/arsene-wenger_prs3760/person.shtml)*. Eurosport Australia. Retrieved 12 July 2012.*
  3. [**Jump up^**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_ref-3) [*"Google Translate"*](https://translate.google.co.uk/?hl=en&tab=wT#auto/fr/professor)*. translate.google.co.uk. Retrieved14 April 2018.*
  4. [**Jump up^**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars%C3%A8ne_Wenger#cite_ref-4) *Larousse, Éditions.*[*"Traduction : professeur - Dictionnaire français-anglais Larousse"*](http://www.larousse.fr/dictionnaires/francais-anglais/professeur/63435)*.www.larousse.fr. Retrieved 14 April 2018.*
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Mohamed Salah

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Mohamed Salah** | | | |
| Salah playing for [Liverpool](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liverpool_F.C.) in 2017 | | | |
| **Personal information** | | | |
| **Full name** | Mohamed Salah Ghaly[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-1) | | |
| **Date of birth** | 15 June 1992 (age 25) | | |
| **Place of birth** | Nagrig, [Gharbia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gharbia_Governorate), Egypt[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-2) | | |
| **Height** | 1.75 m (5 ft 9 in)[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-3) | | |
| **Playing position** | [Forward](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forward_(association_football)) | | |
| **Club information** | | | |
| **Current team** | [Liverpool](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liverpool_F.C.) | | |
| **Number** | 11 | | |
| **Youth career** | | | |
| 2006–2010 | [El Mokawloon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/El_Mokawloon_SC) | | |
| **Senior career\*** | | | |
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| 2015 | → [Fiorentina](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ACF_Fiorentina) (loan) | 16 | (6) |
| 2015–2016 | → [Roma](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A.S._Roma) (loan) | 34 | (14) |
| 2016–2017 | [Roma](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A.S._Roma) | 31 | (15) |
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| 2011–2012 | [Egypt U23](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egypt_national_under-23_football_team) | 11 | (4) |
| 2011– | [Egypt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egypt_national_football_team) | 57 | (33) |
| **Honours**[[show]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah) | | | |
| \* Senior club appearances and goals counted for the domestic league only and correct as of 15:22, 21 April 2018 (UTC) ‡ National team caps and goals correct as of 23 March 2018 | | | |

**Mohamed Salah Ghaly** ([Arabic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language): محمد صلاح غالى‎  Egyptian Arabic pronunciation: [[mæˈħam.mæd sˤɑˈlɑːħ ˈɣæːli]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA/Egyptian_Arabic); born 15 June 1992) is an Egyptian professional [footballer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Association_football) who plays as a [forward](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forward_(association_football)) for the [English](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Football_in_England) club[Liverpool](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liverpool_F.C.) and the [Egyptian national team](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egypt_national_football_team).

Salah started his senior career with hometown club [El Mokawloon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/El_Mokawloon_SC) in the[Egyptian Premier League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egyptian_Premier_League) in 2010, departing shortly thereafter to join [Basel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FC_Basel)for an undisclosed fee. In Switzerland, he starred as he won the league title in his debut season, winning the [SAFP Golden Player Award](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swiss_Super_League) in the process. Salah's performances then attracted [Premier League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Premier_League) side [Chelsea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chelsea_F.C.), and subsequently signed for the team for a £11 million fee in 2014. However, he was used sparingly in his debut season, and was allowed to leave on loan to [Serie A](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Serie_A) clubs [Fiorentina](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ACF_Fiorentina) and [Roma](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A.S._Roma), with the latter eventually signing him permanently for €15 million.

Following consistent match-winning performances in Rome to lead them to[second-placed finish and a record points-tally](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016%E2%80%9317_A.S._Roma_season) in 2017, Salah relocated back to the Premier League to sign for Liverpool for a then club-record fee of £36.9 million. During his second spell in England, Salah adapted his game from a natural winger to a complete [forward](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forward_(association_football)), and quickly became the focal point of the team. He would go onto break the club's scoring record for a debut season, as well as becoming the first player ever to win three[Premier League Player of the Month](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Premier_League_Player_of_the_Month) awards in the same season. He would further go onto be named in the [2017–18](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017-18_Premier_League) [PFA Team of the Year](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PFA_Team_of_the_Year)[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-espn180-4) and as the 2017-18 [PFA Player of the Year](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PFA_Player_of_the_Year).[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-5)

At international level, Salah represented Egypt at youth level, winning a bronze medal in the [Africa U-20 Cup of Nations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Africa_U-20_Cup_of_Nations), and participated in the[2011 FIFA U-20 World Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011_FIFA_U-20_World_Cup) and the [2012 Summer Olympics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2012_Summer_Olympics). He was awarded the [CAF Most Promising African Talent](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CAF_Awards) of the Year in 2012.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-cafonline_2012-12-21-6)Making his debut with the senior national team in 2011, he helped Egypt reach the final of the [2017 Africa Cup of Nations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_Africa_Cup_of_Nations), and he became the top scorer during [CAF qualification](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2018_FIFA_World_Cup_qualification_(CAF)) to help the team qualify for the [2018 FIFA World Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2018_FIFA_World_Cup). For his performances, Salah was named [CAF African Footballer of the Year](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CAF_African_Footballer_of_the_Year) and the [BBC African Footballer of the Year](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BBC_African_Footballer_of_the_Year).[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-7)[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-8) He was also selected in the [CAF Team of the Year](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CAF_Team_of_the_Year) and [Africa Cup of Nations Team of the Tournament](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_Africa_Cup_of_Nations#Awards).

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Club career

**El Mokawloon**

Salah played his youth football with [El Mokawloon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/El_Mokawloon_SC). He made his senior team debut in the [Egyptian Premier League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egyptian_Premier_League) coming on as a substitute on 3 May 2010 in a 1–1 away draw against [El Mansoura](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/El_Mansoura_SC). During the [2010–11 season](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2010%E2%80%9311_Egyptian_Premier_League) Salah continued earning minutes on the pitch, eventually becoming a regular in the team. He scored his first goal for them on 25 December 2010 in a 1–1 away draw against [El Ahly](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Ahly_SC). He remained a regular for El Mokawloon, appearing in every game of the [2011–12 season](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011-12_Egyptian_Premier_League). However, following the [Port Said Stadium disaster](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Port_Said_Stadium_disaster), early February 2012, the Egyptian Premier League stopped and all subsequent matches were postponed. On 10 March 2012, the [Egyptian Football Association](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egyptian_Football_Association)announced their decision to cancel the remainder of the [season](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Season).[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-BBC-9)

**Basel**

Salah playing for Basel away at [Zenit St Petersburg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zenit_St_Petersburg) in the [UEFA Europa League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UEFA_Europa_League) in March 2013

[Swiss Super League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swiss_Super_League) club [Basel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FC_Basel) had been monitoring Salah for some time, and after the[Port Said Stadium disaster](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Port_Said_Stadium_disaster) the club organised a friendly match with the [Egypt U-23 team](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egypt_national_under-23_football_team). This match took place on 16 March in the [Stadion Rankhof](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stadion_Rankhof), in [Basel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basel), and despite Salah only playing during the second half, he scored twice. The game ended in a 4–3 win for the Egypt U-23 team.[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-fcb1-10) Basel subsequently invited Salah to remain in the city for a week's training. On 10 April 2012, it was announced that Salah had signed for Basel on a four-year contract starting from 15 June 2012.[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-fcb_2-11)[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-ahram.org-12)

Salah scored on his unofficial debut on 23 June 2012 against [Steaua București](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FC_Steaua_Bucure%C8%99ti) during a friendly match, a 4–2 defeat. He made his official Basel debut in a [UEFA Champions League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2012%E2%80%9313_UEFA_Champions_League) preliminary stage match against the Norwegian club [Molde](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Molde_FK) on 8 August, coming on as a substitute in the 74th minute. He made his league debut on 12 August against[Thun](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FC_Thun), playing the full match. He scored his first league goal a week later, the second goal in the 2–0 home win against [Lausanne](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FC_Lausanne-Sport). Salah scored his first [Europa League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UEFA_Europa_League) goal in the[quarter-finals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2012%E2%80%9313_UEFA_Europa_League_knockout_phase#Quarter-finals) on 11 April 2013, as Basel advanced to the semi-finals by beating[Tottenham Hotspur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tottenham_Hotspur_F.C.) 4–1 on [penalties](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Penalty_shoot-out_(association_football)) after a 4–4 aggregate draw.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-uefa_2013-04-11-13) In the semi-final on 2 May, Salah scored against [Chelsea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chelsea_F.C.) at [Stamford Bridge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stamford_Bridge_(stadium)), although they were beaten 2–5 on aggregate.[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-eufa_2013-05-03-14) Despite late disappointment in Europe, Basel comfortably won the [Swiss Super League season 2012–13](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2012%E2%80%9313_Swiss_Super_League) Championship title[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-eufa_2013-06-10-15) and finished runners-up in the[Swiss Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2012%E2%80%9313_Swiss_Cup).[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-sfv2013-05-20-16)

To the start of the [2013–14 Swiss Super League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2013%E2%80%9314_Swiss_Super_League) season Salah was member of the Basel team that won the 2013[Uhrencup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uhrencup).[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-fcb_2013-07-08-17) Salah scored on his first league appearance against [Aarau](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FC_Aarau) on 13 July 2013.[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-18)

He scored his first [Champions League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UEFA_Champions_League) goal a month later against [Maccabi Tel Aviv](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maccabi_Tel_Aviv_F.C.) on 6 August 2013 in the [third qualifying round](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2013%E2%80%9314_UEFA_Champions_League).[[19]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-19) Before the first leg on 30 July 2013, Salah did not take part in the [UEFA](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UEFA)-mandated pre-match handshakes with Maccabi players. Basel called the incident a "coincidence" and said it was not intended as a snub. Salah was on pressure from several Egyptian voices demanding from him not to travel to Israel and then criticizing his visit. On the return leg in Tel Aviv, he took part in the handshake line, but offered [fist bumps](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fist_bump) rather than an open hand to Maccabi players.[[20]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-20)

He scored twice against the [Bulgarian league](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bulgarian_A_Football_Group) champions [PFC Ludogorets Razgrad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PFC_Ludogorets_Razgrad) on 21 August 2013 in the [play-off round](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2013%E2%80%9314_UEFA_Champions_League_qualifying_phase_and_play-off_round#Play-off_round).[[21]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-21) On 18 September 2013, Salah scored the equalizer against [Chelsea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chelsea_F.C) in the 2–1 away win during the [group stage](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2013%E2%80%9314_UEFA_Champions_League_group_stage#Group_E), During the return tie on 26 November at the [St. Jakob-Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Jakob-Park), Salah scored the winning goal as Basel beat Chelsea for the second time with a 1–0 home win.[[22]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-22)

**Chelsea**

On 23 January 2014, [Chelsea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chelsea_F.C) announced that a deal had been agreed with Basel to bring Salah to London for a fee reported to be in the region of £11 million.[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-23) On 26 January 2014, [Chelsea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chelsea_F.C.) announced they had completed the signing of Salah, making him the first Egyptian to sign for the [Stamford Bridge club](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stamford_Bridge_(stadium)).[[24]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-24) On 8 February 2014, Salah made his debut for Chelsea in the [Premier League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Premier_League), coming on as a substitute, in the 3–0 win over [Newcastle United](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newcastle_United_F.C.).[[25]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-25) On 22 March 2014, Salah scored his first goal for Chelsea against [Arsenal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arsenal_F.C.) at [Stamford Bridge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stamford_Bridge_(stadium)) in the London Derby, coming on as a substitute for [Oscar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oscar_(footballer_born_1991)), in a match which ended with a 6–0 win for the Blues.[[26]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-26) On 5 April 2014, Salah opened the scoring and later won a penalty and an assist in Chelsea's 3–0 win over [Stoke City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stoke_City_F.C.).[[27]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-27)

Salah playing for Chelsea away at[Tottenham Hotspur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tottenham_Hotspur) on 1 January 2015

Before the season, his future with Chelsea looked to be in a balance after reports suggested he could be forced to return to Egypt to carry out military service after his registration for an education scheme was rescinded by the Egyptian Minister of Higher Education.[[28]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-28) Later, it was reported that he has been spared of military service after the meeting with the then Egyptian prime minister Ibrahim Mahlab, the Minister of Higher Education and the Egyptian national manager [Shawky Gharib](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shawky_Gharib).[[29]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-29) Salah changed squad numbers from 15 to 17 for the start of the 2014–15 season, with his new number having been vacated by [Eden Hazard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eden_Hazard)changing to number 10.[[30]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-30)

Salah's season debut came against [Swansea City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swansea_City_A.F.C.) on 13 September 2014, playing the last eight minutes of Chelsea's 4–2 home win in place of [Cesc Fàbregas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cesc_F%C3%A0bregas).[[31]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-31) He made his first start of the season at home to [Bolton Wanderers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bolton_Wanderers) in the third round of the [League Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2014-15_Football_League_Cup) on 24 September, featuring in a 2–1 win.[[32]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-32)

Although Salah only made three league appearances before his loan move to [Fiorentina](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ACF_Fiorentina), José Mourinho stated that Salah would receive a replica winner's medal from the club for his contributions that season.[[33]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-33)

**Loan to Fiorentina**

Salah playing for[Fiorentina](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ACF_Fiorentina) in 2015

On transfer deadline, 2 February 2015, [Chelsea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chelsea_F.C.) confirmed that Salah would play for the Italian club [Fiorentina](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ACF_Fiorentina) on 18-month loan until the end of the [2015–16](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015%E2%80%9316_Serie_A) season, as part of a transfer deal which saw [Juan Cuadrado](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juan_Cuadrado) moving in the opposite direction. Salah chose the number 74 shirt in honor of the victims of the [Port Said Stadium riot](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Port_Said_Stadium_riot).[[34]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-34)[[35]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-35)[[36]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-36) Six days after signing, he made his Fiorentina debut coming off the bench in the 65th minute as a replacement for [Joaquín](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joaqu%C3%ADn_(footballer)) in a 3–2 [Serie A](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Serie_A) victory against [Atalanta](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atalanta_B.C.) at the [Stadio Artemio Franchi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stadio_Artemio_Franchi).[[37]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-37)

Salah made his first start for Fiorentina on 14 February against [Sassuolo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._Sassuolo_Calcio), scoring his first goal for the club in the 30th minute. He then provided an assist to [Khouma Babacar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khouma_Babacar) just two minutes after scoring; the match ended in a 3–1 win for Fiorentina.[[38]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-38) Twelve days after that, Salah scored his first European goal for Fiorentina, as his side advanced to the Round of 16 of the [Europa League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Europa_League), beating Tottenham 3–1 on aggregate.[[39]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-39)[[40]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-40) Salah scored the winning goal for Fiorentina against [Internazionale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inter_Milan) on 1 March, his third goal in Serie A.[[41]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-41) Four days after that, Salah scored both of Fiorentina's goals in their 2–1 win away to [Juventus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juventus) in the [Coppa Italia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coppa_Italia) semi-final first leg.[[42]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-42)

At the end of the season, Fiorentina reportedly activated an option to make the loan move permanent, but Salah refused the move. Even though the loan agreement was for 18 months, Salah refused to return to Fiorentina and instead joined fellow Serie A club [Roma](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A.S._Roma).[[43]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-43)[[44]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-SalahViola-44)

**Roma**

On 6 August 2015, Salah joined [Roma](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A.S._Roma) on a season-long loan for €5 million;[[45]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-2015Roma-45) with the option to make the deal permanent,[[45]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-2015Roma-45)[[46]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-46) for a reported €15 million.[[47]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-47) He made his debut on 22 August, as the new season began with a 1–1 draw at [Hellas Verona](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hellas_Verona_F.C.).[[48]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-48) On 11 September 2015, [ACF Fiorentina](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ACF_Fiorentina) filed a complaint to FIFA with the claim that Chelsea alleging breach of contract when they allowed Salah to join Roma on loan.[[49]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-49)

On 20 September 2015, Salah scored his first goal of the season against [Sassuolo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._Sassuolo_Calcio) to help Roma salvage a point as the match ended in a 2–2 draw.[[50]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-50) He went on to score in his following two matches, 2–1 loss against [Sampdoria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.C._Sampdoria)[[51]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-51) and 5–1 win against [Carpi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carpi_FC_1909).[[52]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-52) On 25 October 2015, Salah returned to [Artemio Franchi stadium](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stadio_Artemio_Franchi), scoring the opener against his former Serie A side Fiorentina to help earn a fourth straight league win for Roma. In his return, Salah was also sent off after picking up a second yellow in the closing minutes of the game.[[53]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-53)

At the end of the season, Salah was named Player of the Season, finishing as the club's top goalscorer with 15 goals in all competitions (14 in Serie A) and six assists.[[54]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-54) On 3 August 2016, Roma made the deal permanent.[[55]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-55) He scored a hat-trick at the [Stadio Olimpico](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stadio_Olimpico) on 6 November as Roma won 3–0 against [Bologna](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bologna_F.C._1909).[[56]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-56)

**Liverpool**

On 22 June 2017, Salah agreed a transfer to [Liverpool](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liverpool_F.C.). He signed a long-term contract with the Reds for an initial €42m fee that could rise to up to €50m.[[57]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-57) The fee was a club record, eclipsing the £35m spent on [Andy Carroll](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andy_Carroll) in 2011.[[58]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-58) He was assigned the number 11 shirt previously worn by [Roberto Firmino](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roberto_Firmino) who instead switched to number 9. He joined the club on 1 July upon the opening of the summer transfer window, becoming Liverpool's first Egyptian player.[[59]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-59) He scored on his debut against [Watford](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Watford_F.C.) in a 3–3 draw on 12 August.[[60]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-60) On 24 August, Salah scored his second goal for Liverpool, in a [2017–18 UEFA Champions League play-off round](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017%E2%80%9318_UEFA_Champions_League_qualifying_phase_and_play-off_round) 4–2 win (6–3 agg) against [Hoffenheim](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TSG_1899_Hoffenheim), his first goal at [Anfield](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anfield).[[61]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-61)Three days later, Salah scored and assisted a goal in a 4–0 victory over [Arsenal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arsenal_F.C.).[[62]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-62) For his performances in August, Salah was awarded Player of the Month by Liverpool supporters.[[63]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-63) On 17 October, Salah netted twice in a 7–0 Champions League win over [Maribor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NK_Maribor), helping Liverpool to the joint-largest ever away win in the competition, and the largest away win by an English club.[[64]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-64)

Salah playing for Liverpool against[Manchester United](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_United_F.C.) in March 2018

On 26 November, Salah scored the opener and refused to celebrate in a 1–1 home draw with his former team Chelsea out of respect for the club as well as victims of the [North Sinai Mosque attack](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_Sinai_mosque_attack) two days earlier.[[65]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-65) Salah hit the top of the Premier League goal scoring charts by scoring twice after coming on as a substitute away at [Stoke City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stoke_City_F.C.) on 29 November in a 3–0 win.[[66]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-66) The following month, Salah netted in a 4–0 win over [Bournemouth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AFC_Bournemouth); a result which saw Liverpool become the first team in Premier League history to win four consecutive away league matches by a margin of at least three goals.[[67]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-67) In the process, he also became the joint-second fastest player to reach 20 goals for Liverpool on his 26th appearance, only behind [George Allan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Allan_(footballer,_born_1875)) who reached the milestone in 19 appearances in 1895.[[68]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-68)

On 17 March 2018, Salah scored four goals in a 5–0 win over Watford, which was his first hat-trick for Liverpool.[[69]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-Records-69) In this game, he also broke a record of scoring 36 times in his debut season for Liverpool, and also became the leading goalscorer in Europe's top five leagues – overtaking Barcelona's [Lionel Messi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lionel_Messi) and Tottenham striker [Harry Kane](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Kane).[[69]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-Records-69)Following Salah’s record breaking goal exploits former Liverpool captain [Steven Gerrard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steven_Gerrard) stated "we are witnessing the start of greatness".[[69]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-Records-69)

On 22 April 2018, Salah was awarded the [PFA Players' Player of the Year](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PFA_Players%27_Player_of_the_Year) award.[[70]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-70) Two days later, he scored a brace in a 5–2 Champions League semi-final first leg win over former club, Roma. In doing so, he simultaneously became the first player from Africa and the first Liverpool player to score 10 goals in a single campaign in the tournament.[[71]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-CLR-71) His double also took him to 43 goals for the season across all competitions, surpassing [Roger Hunt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roger_Hunt)'s tally of 42, and making him Liverpool's second-highest goalscorer in a single season, behind [Ian Rush](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ian_Rush).[[71]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-CLR-71) He had previously also broken the club's record for the Premier League era, surpassing [Robbie Fowler](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robbie_Fowler)'s total of 36 goals set in the [1995–96](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1995%E2%80%9396_Liverpool_F.C._season) campaign, and[Fernando Torres](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fernando_Torres)' record of 33 for the most goals by a Liverpool player in a debut season. [[72]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-72)

International career

Salah (left) playing against [Tunisia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tunisia_national_football_team)in October 2012

Salah made 11 appearances for the [Egypt U-20 team](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egypt_national_under-20_football_team) and [Egypt U-23 team](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egypt_national_under-23_football_team), representing Egypt in both [2011 FIFA U-20 World Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011_FIFA_U-20_World_Cup) and the [2012 Summer Olympics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Football_at_the_2012_Summer_Olympics_%E2%80%93_Men%27s_tournament), scoring in all three of the team's group matches in the latter tournament, helping them to the quarter-finals.

On 3 September 2011, Salah made his debut for the [Egypt national football team](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egypt_national_football_team)in the 2–1 away defeat by [Sierra Leone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sierra_Leone_national_football_team). He scored his first goal for Egypt's [first team](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egypt_national_football_team) in the 3–0 win against [Niger](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Niger_national_football_team) one month later. He later scored a goal in the 93rd minute in stoppage time against [Guinea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guinea_national_football_team) to give Egypt an important 3–2 away victory in a [2014 World Cup qualifier](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2014_FIFA_World_Cup_qualification_(CAF)).

On 9 June 2013, Salah scored a hat-trick in a 4–2 away win against [Zimbabwe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zimbabwe_national_football_team) as Egypt won their fourth consecutive match in the World Cup qualifiers.[[73]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-73) A week later in the following match, he scored the only goal away to [Mozambique](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mozambique_national_football_team), putting Egypt into the final qualifying group.[[74]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-74) Salah later scored his sixth goal in a qualification match to the joint-top scorer among all African teams in the qualification stages.

Salah was a member of the Pharaohs' squad for the [2017 Africa Cup of Nations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_Africa_Cup_of_Nations) held in [Gabon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabon). On 25 January 2017, he scored in Egypt's 1–0 win over [Ghana](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ghana_national_football_team) to secure first place in [Group D](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_Africa_Cup_of_Nations_Group_D).[[75]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-75) He went with the Egyptians all the way to the final, scoring twice and assisting two times in 6 games, earning him a place in the [CAF Team of the Tournament](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_Africa_Cup_of_Nations#Awards).[[76]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-AFCONTOTT-76)

Salah was the top scorer for Egypt with five goals during the [2018 FIFA World Cup qualification](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2018_FIFA_World_Cup_qualification_(CAF)), including both goals in the decisive 2–1 victory over [Congo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Congo_national_football_team), one of which was a penalty in the last minute to make the Pharaohs reach their first World Cup finals since [1990](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1990_FIFA_World_Cup).[[77]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-77)

Style of play

A quick, mobile, hard-working and tactical player, with good technique and an eye for goal, Salah is predominantly known for his speed, [dribbling](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dribbling#Association_football) skills, first touch, and ball control, as well as his ability to use both his pace and flair on the ball in order to beat opponents, and create scoring opportunities for himself or his teammates.[[78]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-treccani-78)[[79]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-Salah,_oltre_i_gol-79)[[80]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-Tutti_pazzi_per_Salah-80)[[81]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-81)[[82]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-82)[[83]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-83) A versatile forward, he primarily plays as a [winger](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forward_(association_football)#Winger) on the right flank, a position which allows him to cut into the centre onto his stronger left foot, and either shoot on goal[[84]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-84) or play quick exchanges with other players; he can also play in the centre behind the main striker as either an [attacking midfielder](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Midfielder#Attacking_midfielder) or [second striker](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forward_(association_football)#Second_striker).[[78]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-treccani-78)

Upon signing for [Chelsea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chelsea_F.C.), [José Mourinho](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jos%C3%A9_Mourinho) said of Salah: "He's young, he's fast, he's creative, he's enthusiastic. When we analysed him he looks the kind of humble personality on the pitch, ready to work for the team."[[85]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-85) Mourinho went on to say that Salah has "similar qualities" with "talented players" that he had worked with, such as [Gareth Bale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gareth_Bale) and [Arjen Robben](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arjen_Robben).[[86]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-86) His technical skills, pace, position and direct playing style led him to be nicknamed the "Egyptian [Messi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lionel_Messi)", in the Italian media.[[79]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-Salah,_oltre_i_gol-79)[[80]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-Tutti_pazzi_per_Salah-80)

Personal life

Mo Salah in press conference in CAF Awards 2017

Mohammed Salah married Maggi in 2013. Together they have a daughter named Makka who was born in 2014.[[87]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-87) His daughter is named after the holiest city in Islam and was born in [Westminster Hospital](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Westminster_Hospital) in south west London.[[88]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-88) Salah is[Muslim](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim) and often celebrates goals by performing the [sujood](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sujud).[[89]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-89) Liverpool fans created a chant to the tune of [Dodgy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dodgy)'s "[Good Enough](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Good_Enough_(Dodgy_song))", saying that if Salah continued to score goals, they would convert to Islam. Salah gave his approval to the chant, and it has been cited as an example of inclusivity.[[90]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-90)

Salah is nicknamed "The [Pharaoh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pharaoh)" by the press and his fans.[[91]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-91)[[92]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-92)[[93]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-93) More recently, Salah was given the nickname "Egyptian King" by Liverpool supporters,[[94]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-94)[[95]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-95) arising from a chant set to the tune of "[Sit Down](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sit_Down_(song))" by English band [James](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_(band)).[[96]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-96)

Career statistics

**Club**

*As of 24 April 2018*[[97]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-Soccerway-97)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Appearances and goals by club, season and competition** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Club** | **Season** | **League** | | | **Cup** | | **League Cup** | | **Continental** | | **Total** | |
| **Division** | **Apps** | **Goals** | **Apps** | **Goals** | **Apps** | **Goals** | **Apps** | **Goals** | **Apps** | **Goals** |
| [El Mokawloon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/El_Mokawloon_SC) | [2009–10](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2009%E2%80%9310_Egyptian_Premier_League) | [Egyptian Premier League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egyptian_Premier_League) | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | — | | — | | 5 | 0 |
| [2010–11](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2010%E2%80%9311_Egyptian_Premier_League) | Egyptian Premier League | 20 | 4 | 4 | 1 | — | | — | | 24 | 5 |
| [2011–12](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011%E2%80%9312_Egyptian_Premier_League) | Egyptian Premier League | 15 | 7 | 0 | 0 | — | | — | | 15 | 7 |
| **Total** | | **38** | **11** | **6** | **1** | **0** | **0** | **0** | **0** | **44** | **12** |
| [Basel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/F.C._Basel) | [2012–13](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2012%E2%80%9313_Swiss_Super_League) | [Swiss Super League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swiss_Super_League) | 29 | 5 | 5 | 3 | — | | 16 | 2 | 50 | 10 |
| [2013–14](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2013%E2%80%9314_Swiss_Super_League) | Swiss Super League | 18 | 4 | 1 | 1 | — | | 10 | 5 | 29 | 10 |
| **Total** | | **47** | **9** | **6** | **4** | **0** | **0** | **26** | **7** | **79** | **20** |
| [Chelsea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chelsea_FC) | [2013–14](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2013%E2%80%9314_Chelsea_F.C._season) | [Premier League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Premier_League) | 10 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 2 |
| [2014–15](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2014%E2%80%9315_Chelsea_F.C._season) | Premier League | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| **Total** | | **13** | **2** | **2** | **0** | **2** | **0** | **2** | **0** | **19** | **2** |
| [Fiorentina](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ACF_Fiorentina)(loan) | [2014–15](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2014%E2%80%9315_ACF_Fiorentina_season) | [Serie A](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Serie_A) | 16 | 6 | 2 | 2 | — | | 8 | 1 | 26 | 9 |
| [Roma](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A.S._Roma) (loan) | [2015–16](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015%E2%80%9316_A.S._Roma_season) | Serie A | 34 | 14 | 1 | 0 | — | | 7 | 1 | 42 | 15 |
| [Roma](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A.S._Roma) | [2016–17](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016%E2%80%9317_A.S._Roma_season) | Serie A | 31 | 15 | 2 | 2 | — | | 8 | 2 | 41 | 19 |
| **Total** | | **65** | **29** | **3** | **2** | **0** | **0** | **15** | **3** | **83** | **34** |
| [Liverpool](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liverpool_F.C.) | [2017–18](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017%E2%80%9318_Liverpool_F.C._season) | Premier League | 33 | 31 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 11 | 47 | 43 |
| **Career total** | | | **211** | **87** | **20** | **10** | **2** | **0** | **64** | **22** | **298** | **120** |

**International**

*As of 23 March 2018*.[[98]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah" \l "cite_note-int.statistics-98)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Appearances and goals by national team and year** | | | | |
| **National team** | **Year** | **Apps** | **Goals** | **Ratio** |
| [Egypt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egypt_national_football_team) | 2011 | 2 | 1 | 0.50 |
| 2012 | 15 | 7 | 0.47 |
| 2013 | 9 | 7 | 0.78 |
| 2014 | 9 | 5 | 0.56 |
| 2015 | 4 | 2 | 0.50 |
| 2016 | 6 | 5 | 0.83 |
| 2017 | 11 | 5 | 0.45 |
| 2018 | 1 | 1 | 1.00 |
| **Total** | **57** | **33** | **0.58** |

**International goals**

*Egypt score listed first, score column indicates score after each Salah goal.*[[98]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-int.statistics-98)

| **International goals by date, venue, cap, opponent, score, result and competition** | | | | | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No.** | **Date** | **Venue** | **Cap** | **Opponent** | **Score** | **Result** | **Competition** | **Ref** |
| 1 | 8 October 2011 | [Cairo International Stadium](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cairo_International_Stadium),[Cairo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cairo), Egypt | 2 | [Niger](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Niger_national_football_team) | **2**–0 | 3–0 | [2012 Africa Cup of Nations qualification](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2012_Africa_Cup_of_Nations_qualification) | [[99]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-99) |
| 2 | 27 February 2012 | [Thani bin Jassim Stadium](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thani_bin_Jassim_Stadium),[Doha](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doha), Qatar | 3 | [Kenya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kenya_national_football_team) | **1**–0 | 5–0 | [Friendly](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exhibition_game) | [[100]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-100) |
| 3 | 29 March 2012 | [Khartoum Stadium](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khartoum_Stadium), [Khartoum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khartoum), Sudan | 6 | [Uganda](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uganda_national_football_team) | **1**–1 | 2–1 | Friendly | [[101]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-101) |
| 4 | 31 March 2012 | Khartoum Stadium, Khartoum, Sudan | 7 | [Chad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chad_national_football_team) | **1**–0 | 4–0 | Friendly | [[102]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-102) |
| 5 | 22 May 2012 | [Al-Merrikh Stadium](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Merrikh_Stadium),[Omdurman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Omdurman), Sudan | 10 | [Togo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Togo_national_football_team) | **2**–0 | 3–0 | Friendly | [[103]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-103) |
| 6 | **3**–0 |
| 7 | 10 June 2012 | [Stade du 28 Septembre](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stade_du_28_Septembre),[Conakry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conakry), Guinea | 12 | [Guinea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guinea_national_football_team) | **3**–2 | 3–2 | [2014 FIFA World Cup qualification](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2014_FIFA_World_Cup_qualification_%E2%80%93_CAF_Second_Round#Group_G) | [[104]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-104) |
| 8 | 15 June 2012 | [Borg El Arab Stadium](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Borg_El_Arab_Stadium),[Alexandria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexandria), Egypt | 13 | [Central African Republic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_African_Republic_national_football_team) | **2**–1 | 2–3 | [2013 Africa Cup of Nations qualification](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2013_Africa_Cup_of_Nations_qualification) | [[105]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-105) |
| 9 | 6 February 2013 | [Vicente Calderón Stadium](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vicente_Calder%C3%B3n_Stadium),[Madrid](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madrid), Spain | 18 | [Chile](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chile_national_football_team) | **1**–2 | 1–2 | Friendly | [[106]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-106) |
| – | 22 March 2013 | Borg El Arab Stadium, Alexandria, Egypt | – | [Swaziland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swaziland_national_football_team) | **2**–0 | 10–0 | [Unofficial friendly](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exhibition_game) | [[107]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-107) |
| – | **3**–0 |
| 10 | 9 June 2013 | [National Sports Stadium](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Sports_Stadium_(Zimbabwe)),[Harare](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harare), Zimbabwe | 20 | [Zimbabwe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zimbabwe_national_football_team) | **2**–1 | 4–2 | 2014 FIFA World Cup qualification | [[108]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-108) |
| 11 | **3**–1 |
| 12 | **4**–2 |
| 13 | 16 June 2013 | [Estádio da Machava](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Est%C3%A1dio_da_Machava), [Maputo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maputo), Mozambique | 21 | [Mozambique](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mozambique_national_football_team) | **1**–0 | 1–0 | 2014 FIFA World Cup qualification | [[109]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-109) |
| 14 | 14 August 2013 | [El Gouna Stadium](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/El_Gouna_Stadium), [El Gouna](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/El_Gouna), Egypt | 22 | [Uganda](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uganda_national_football_team) | **2**–0 | 3–0 | Friendly | [[110]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-110) |
| 15 | 10 September 2013 | El Gouna Stadium, El Gouna, Egypt | 23 | [Guinea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guinea_national_football_team) | **3**–2 | 4–2 | 2014 FIFA World Cup qualification | [[111]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-111) |
| 16 | 5 March 2014 | [Tivoli-Neu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tivoli-Neu), [Innsbruck](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Innsbruck), Austria | 27 | [Bosnia and Herzegovina](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bosnia_and_Herzegovina_national_football_team) | **2**–0 | 2–0 | Friendly | [[112]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-112) |
| 17 | 30 May 2014 | [Estadio Nacional Julio Martínez Prádanos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Estadio_Nacional_Julio_Mart%C3%ADnez_Pr%C3%A1danos), [Santiago](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santiago), Chile | 28 | [Chile](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chile_national_football_team) | **1**–0 | 2–3 | Friendly | [[113]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-113) |
| 18 | 10 October 2014 | [National Stadium](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Botswana_National_Stadium), [Gaborone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaborone), Botswana | 32 | [Botswana](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Botswana_national_football_team) | **2**–0 | 2–0 | [2015 Africa Cup of Nations qualification](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015_Africa_Cup_of_Nations_qualification_Group_G) | [[114]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-114) |
| 19 | 15 October 2014 | Cairo International Stadium, Cairo, Egypt | 33 | [Botswana](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Botswana_national_football_team) | **2**–0 | 2–0 | 2015 Africa Cup of Nations qualification | [[115]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-115) |
| 20 | 19 November 2014 | [Stade Mustapha Ben Jannet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stade_Mustapha_Ben_Jannet),[Monastir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monastir,_Tunisia), Tunisia | 35 | [Tunisia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tunisia_national_football_team) | **1**–0 | 1–2 | 2015 Africa Cup of Nations qualification | [[116]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-116) |
| 21 | 14 June 2015 | Borg El Arab Stadium, Alexandria, Egypt | 37 | [Tanzania](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tanzania_national_football_team) | **3**–0 | 3–0 | [2017 Africa Cup of Nations qualification](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_Africa_Cup_of_Nations_qualification_Group_G) | [[117]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-117) |
| 22 | 6 September 2015 | [Stade Omnisports Idriss Mahamat Ouya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stade_Omnisports_Idriss_Mahamat_Ouya), [N'Djamena](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/N%27Djamena), Chad | 38 | [Chad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chad_national_football_team) | **3**–1 | 5–1 | 2017 Africa Cup of Nations qualification | [[118]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-118) |
| 23 | 25 March 2016 | [Ahmadu Bello Stadium](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ahmadu_Bello_Stadium),[Kaduna](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaduna), Nigeria | 40 | [Nigeria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria_national_football_team) | **1**–1 | 1–1 | 2017 Africa Cup of Nations qualification | [[119]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-119) |
| 24 | 4 June 2016 | [National Stadium](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Stadium_(Tanzania)), [Dar es Salaam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dar_es_Salaam), Tanzania | 42 | [Tanzania](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tanzania_national_football_team) | **1**–0 | 2–0 | 2017 Africa Cup of Nations qualification | [[120]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-120) |
| 25 | **2**–0 |
| 26 | 9 October 2016 | [Stade Municipal de Kintélé](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stade_Municipal_de_Kint%C3%A9l%C3%A9),[Brazzaville](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazzaville), Republic of the Congo | 44 | [Congo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Congo_national_football_team) | **1**–1 | 2–1 | [2018 FIFA World Cup qualification](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2018_FIFA_World_Cup_qualification_%E2%80%93_CAF_Third_Round#Group_E) | [[121]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-121) |
| 27 | 13 November 2016 | Borg El Arab Stadium, Alexandria, Egypt | 45 | [Ghana](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ghana_national_football_team) | **1**–0 | 2–0 | 2018 FIFA World Cup qualification | [[122]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-122) |
| 28 | 25 January 2017 | [Stade de Port-Gentil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stade_de_Port-Gentil), [Port-Gentil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Port-Gentil), Gabon | 49 | [Ghana](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ghana_national_football_team) | **1**–0 | 1–0 | [2017 Africa Cup of Nations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_Africa_Cup_of_Nations_Group_D) | [[123]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-123) |
| 29 | 1 February 2017 | [Stade de l'Amitié](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stade_d%27Angondj%C3%A9), [Libreville](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Libreville), Gabon | 51 | [Burkina Faso](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burkina_Faso_national_football_team) | **1**–0 | 1–1 (4–3[p](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Penalty_shoot-out_(association_football))) | [2017 Africa Cup of Nations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_Africa_Cup_of_Nations_knockout_stage) | [[124]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-124) |
| 30 | 5 September 2017 | Borg El Arab Stadium, Alexandria, Egypt | 55 | [Uganda](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uganda_national_football_team) | **1**–0 | 1–0 | 2018 FIFA World Cup qualification | [[125]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-125) |
| 31 | 8 October 2017 | Borg El Arab Stadium, Alexandria, Egypt | 56 | [Congo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Congo_national_football_team) | **1**–0 | 2–1 | 2018 FIFA World Cup qualification | [[126]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-126) |
| 32 | **2**–1 |
| 33 | 23 March 2018 | [Letzigrund](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Letzigrund), [Zürich](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Z%C3%BCrich), Switzerland | 57 | [Portugal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portugal_national_football_team) | **1**–0 | 1–2 | Friendly | [[127]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-127) |

Honours

**Club**

**Basel**[[97]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah" \l "cite_note-Soccerway-97)

* [Swiss Super League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swiss_Super_League): [2012–13](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2012%E2%80%9313_Swiss_Super_League), [2013–14](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2013%E2%80%9314_Swiss_Super_League)

**International**

**Egypt U20**

* [African Youth Championship](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Africa_U-20_Cup_of_Nations) third place: [2011](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011_African_Youth_Championship)[[128]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-128)[[129]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-129)

**Egypt**

* [Africa Cup of Nations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Africa_Cup_of_Nations) runner-up: [2017](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_Africa_Cup_of_Nations)[[130]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-130)

**Individual**

* [PFA Players' Player of the Year](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PFA_Players%27_Player_of_the_Year): 2017–18[[131]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-131)
* [African Footballer of the Year](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_Footballer_of_the_Year): 2017[[132]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-132)
* [BBC African Footballer of the Year](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BBC_African_Footballer_of_the_Year): 2017[[133]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-133)
* [El Heddaf Arab Footballer of the Year](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/El_Heddaf_Arab_Footballer_of_the_Year): 2013, 2017
* Goal's Arab Player of the Year: 2017[[134]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-134)
* [UAFA Golden Boy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Union_of_Arab_Football_Associations): 2012
* [SAFP Golden Player](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swiss_Super_League): 2013[[135]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-135)
* [Roma](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A.S._Roma) Player of the Season: [2015–16](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015%E2%80%9316_A.S._Roma_season)[[136]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-136)
* [Globe Soccer Best Arab Player of the Year](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Globe_Soccer_Awards): 2016[[137]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-137)
* [CAF Team of the Year](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CAF_Team_of_the_Year): 2016,[[138]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-138) 2017
* [CAF Most Promising Talent of the Year](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CAF_Awards#CAF_Most_Promising_Talent_of_the_Year): 2012[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-cafonline_2012-12-21-6)
* [CAF Africa Cup of Nations Team of the Tournament](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Africa_Cup_of_Nations): [2017](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_Africa_Cup_of_Nations)[[76]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-AFCONTOTT-76)
* [Premier League Player of the Month](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Premier_League_Player_of_the_Month): [November 2017](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017%E2%80%9318_Premier_League#Monthly_awards),[[139]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-139) February 2018,[[140]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-potm_feb18-140) March 2018[[141]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-141)
* [PFA Player of the Month](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Professional_Footballers%27_Association): November 2017,[[142]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-142) December 2017,[[143]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-143) February 2018,[[144]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-feb18-144) March 2018[[145]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-145)
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**Records**

*As of 24 April 2018*

**England**

* Most goals in a 38-game [Premier League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Premier_League) season: 31 goals (shared with [Alan Shearer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alan_Shearer) , [Cristiano Ronaldo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cristiano_Ronaldo) and [Luis Suárez](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luis_Su%C3%A1rez))[[146]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-146)
* Most games scored in during a Premier League season: 23 games in [2017–18](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017%E2%80%9318_Premier_League)[[147]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-147)
* Most goals by an African player in Premier League season: 31 goals in [2017–18](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017%E2%80%9318_Premier_League)[[148]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-148)
* Most [Premier League Player of the Month](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Premier_League_Player_of_the_Month) awards in a single season: 3 (November 2017, February 2018 and March 2018)[[149]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-149)[[140]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-potm_feb18-140)[[150]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-150)
* Most left-footed goals ever scored in a single Premier League season: 24 goals in [2017–18](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017%E2%80%9318_Premier_League)[[151]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-151)

**Europe**

* Most Goals by an African player in a [UEFA Champions League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UEFA_Champions_League) season: 11 goals in [2017–18](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017%E2%80%9318_UEFA_Champions_League)[[152]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-152)

**Liverpool**

* Most goals in a debut season: 43 goals in [2017–18](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017%E2%80%9318_Premier_League)[[153]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-153)
* Most European goals in a season: 11 goals in [2017–18](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017%E2%80%9318_UEFA_Champions_League) (shared with [Roberto Firmino](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roberto_Firmino))[[154]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-154)
* Most goals in a season by a Liverpool player in the Premier League era: 43 goals in [2017–18](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017%E2%80%9318_Premier_League)[[155]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-155)
* Most games scored in during a single campaign: 33 games in [2017–18](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017%E2%80%9318_Premier_League)

**Performances**

* [FIFA World Cup qualification top goalscorer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FIFA_World_Cup_qualification): 6 goals in [2014](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2014_FIFA_World_Cup_qualification_(CAF)#Goalscorers) (shared with [Mohamed Aboutrika](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Aboutrika) and [Asamoah Gyan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asamoah_Gyan))[[156]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-156)
* [FIFA World Cup qualification top goalscorer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FIFA_World_Cup_qualification): 5 goals in [2018](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2018_FIFA_World_Cup_qualification_(CAF)#Goalscorers) (shared with [Préjuce Nakoulma](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pr%C3%A9juce_Nakoulma))
* [A.S. Roma](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A.S._Roma) Top Goal Scorer: 15 goals in [2015–16](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015%E2%80%9316_A.S._Roma_season#Goalscorers)
* [A.S. Roma](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A.S._Roma) Top Assist Provider: 15 assists in 2016–17[[157]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Salah#cite_note-157)

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# Manchester City F.C.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

*This article is about the men's football club. For the women's football club, see*[*Manchester City W.F.C.*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_W.F.C.)*For the Sierra Leonean football club, see*[*Manchester City F.C. (Sierra Leone)*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C._(Sierra_Leone))*.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Manchester City** | |
|  | |
| **Full name** | Manchester City Football Club |
| **Nickname(s)** | Citizens, Sky Blues, City |
| **Short name** | MCFC |
| **Founded** | 1880; 138 years ago as St. Mark's (West Gorton) 16 April 1894; 124 years ago as Manchester City[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-1) |
| **Ground** | [City of Manchester Stadium](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/City_of_Manchester_Stadium) |
| **Capacity** | 55,097[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-2) |
| **Owner** | [City Football Group](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/City_Football_Group)[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-3) [ADUG](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abu_Dhabi_United_Group) – 86.21% [CITIC Group](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CITIC_Group) – 13.79% |
| **Chairman** | [Khaldoon Al Mubarak](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khaldoon_Al_Mubarak) |
| **Manager** | [Pep Guardiola](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pep_Guardiola) |
| **League** | [Premier League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Premier_League) |
| [**2016–17**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016%E2%80%9317_Premier_League) | [Premier League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Premier_League), 3rd of 20 |
| **Website** | [Club website](http://www.mancity.com/) |
|  | |
| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | [**Home colours**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kit_(association_football)) | [**Away colours**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Away_colours) | [**Third colours**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Third_jersey) | | |
| [*Current season*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017%E2%80%9318_Manchester_City_F.C._season) | |

**Manchester City Football Club** is a [football](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Association_football) club in [Manchester](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester), England. Founded in 1880 as **St. Mark's** (**West Gorton**), it became **Ardwick Association Football Club** in 1887 and**Manchester City** in 1894. The club's home ground is the [City of Manchester Stadium](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/City_of_Manchester_Stadium) in east Manchester, to which it moved in 2003, having played at [Maine Road](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maine_Road) since 1923.

Manchester City first played in the top-tier of the [Football League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_Football_League) in 1899 and won their first major honour with the [FA Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FA_Cup) in [1904](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1904_FA_Cup_Final). The club's most successful period was from 1968 to 1970, when it won the [League Championship](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Football_League_First_Division), [FA Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FA_Cup), [League Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/EFL_Cup) and [European Cup Winners' Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UEFA_Cup_Winners%27_Cup), under the management team of [Joe Mercer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joe_Mercer) and[Malcolm Allison](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malcolm_Allison). After losing the [1981 FA Cup Final](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1981_FA_Cup_Final), the club went through a period of decline, culminating in [relegation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Relegation) to the third tier of [English football](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_football_league_system) for the only time in its history in [1998](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1997%E2%80%9398_Football_League). Having regained their [Premier League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Premier_League) status in the early 2000s, Manchester City was purchased in 2008 by [Abu Dhabi United Group](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abu_Dhabi_United_Group) for £210 million, receiving considerable investment. The club went on to win the Premier League in [2012](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011%E2%80%9312_Premier_League), [2014](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2013%E2%80%9314_Premier_League), and [2018](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017%E2%80%9318_Premier_League).

Manchester City has the [fifth-highest revenue in football](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deloitte_Football_Money_League), at €527.7 million in 2016–17.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-4) [*Forbes*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forbes) magazine ranks it as [the world's fifth-most valuable football club](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forbes%27_list_of_the_most_valuable_football_clubs), worth [US$](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_dollar)2.08 billion.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-Forbes_Valuation-5) In 2015, a 13.79% stake purchase of the club's [parent company](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parent_company), [City Football Group](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/City_Football_Group) (CFG), by the [CITIC Group](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CITIC_Group) for £265 million valued it at $3 billion.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-6)

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## History

*Main article:*[*History of Manchester City F.C.*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Manchester_City_F.C.)

St. Marks (Gorton) in 1884 – the reason for the [cross pattée](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cross_patt%C3%A9e) on the shirts is now unknown[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C." \l "cite_note-mcfcoffhist-7)

City gained their first honours by winning the Second Division in 1899; with it came promotion to the highest level in English football, the [First Division](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Football_League_First_Division). They went on to claim their first major honour on 23 April 1904, beating [Bolton Wanderers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bolton_Wanderers_F.C.) 1–0 at [Crystal Palace](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crystal_Palace_National_Sports_Centre) to win the [FA Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FA_Cup); City narrowly missed out on a League and Cup [double](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Double_(association_football)) that season after finishing runners-up in the League but City became the first club in Manchester to win a major honour.[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-8) In the seasons following the[FA Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FA_Cup) triumph, the club was dogged by allegations of financial irregularities, culminating in the suspension of seventeen players in 1906, including captain [Billy Meredith](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billy_Meredith), who subsequently moved across town to [Manchester United](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_United_F.C.).[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-9) A fire at Hyde Road destroyed the main stand in 1920, and in 1923 the club moved to their new purpose-built stadium at [Maine Road](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maine_Road) in [Moss Side](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moss_Side).[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-10)

The Manchester City team which[won the FA Cup in 1904](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1904_FA_Cup_Final)

In the 1930s, Manchester City reached two consecutive FA Cup finals, losing to[Everton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Everton_F.C.) in 1933, before claiming the Cup by beating [Portsmouth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portsmouth_F.C.) in 1934.[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-11)During the 1934 cup run, Manchester City broke the record for the [highest home attendance of any club in English football history](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Record_home_attendances_of_English_football_clubs), as 84,569 fans packed Maine Road for a sixth round FA Cup tie against [Stoke City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stoke_City_F.C.) in 1934 – a record which still stands to this day.[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-12) The club won the First Division title for the first time in 1937, but were relegated the following season, despite scoring more goals than any other team in the division.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-13) Twenty years later, a City team inspired by a tactical system known as the [Revie Plan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Revie_Plan) reached consecutive FA Cup finals again, in 1955 and 1956; just as in the 1930s, they lost the first one, to [Newcastle United](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newcastle_United_F.C.), and won the second. The [1956 final](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1956_FA_Cup_Final), in which Manchester City beat [Birmingham City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Birmingham_City_F.C.) 3–1, is one of the most famous finals of all-time, and is remembered for City goalkeeper [Bert Trautmann](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bert_Trautmann) continuing to play on after unknowingly breaking his neck.[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-14)

After relegation to the Second Division in 1963, the future looked bleak with a record low home attendance of 8,015 against [Swindon Town](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swindon_Town_F.C.) in January 1965.[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-15) In the summer of 1965, the management team of [Joe Mercer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joe_Mercer) and [Malcolm Allison](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malcolm_Allison) was appointed. In the first season under Mercer, City won the Second Division title and made important signings in[Mike Summerbee](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mike_Summerbee) and [Colin Bell](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colin_Bell).[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-16) Two seasons later, in [1967–68](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1967%E2%80%9368_in_English_football), Manchester City claimed the League Championship for the second time, clinching the title on the final day of the season with a 4–3 win at Newcastle United and beating their close neighbours Manchester United into second place.[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-17) Further trophies followed: City won the FA Cup in [1969](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FA_Cup_Final_1969), before achieving European success by winning the [European Cup Winners' Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UEFA_Cup_Winners%27_Cup) in 1970, beating [Górnik Zabrze](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/G%C3%B3rnik_Zabrze) 2–1 in[Vienna](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vienna).[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-18) City also won the [League Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/EFL_Cup) that season, becoming the second English team to win a European trophy and a domestic trophy in the same season.

The club continued to challenge for honours throughout the 1970s, finishing one point behind the league champions on two occasions and reaching the final of the 1974 League Cup.[[19]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-19) One of the matches from this period that is most fondly remembered by supporters of Manchester City is the final match of the 1973–74 season against arch-rivals Manchester United, who needed to win to have any hope of avoiding relegation. Former United player [Denis Law](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Denis_Law) scored with a backheel to give City a 1–0 win at Old Trafford and confirm the relegation of their rivals.[[20]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-20)[[21]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-21) The final trophy of the club's most successful period was won in 1976, when Newcastle United were beaten 2–1 in the League Cup final.

Chart of yearly table positions of City in the Football League.

A long period of decline followed the success of the 1960s and 1970s. Malcolm Allison rejoined the club to become manager for the second time in 1979, but squandered large sums of money on unsuccessful signings, such as [Steve Daley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steve_Daley).[[22]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-22) A succession of managers then followed – seven in the 1980s alone. Under [John Bond](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Bond_(footballer)), City reached the 1981 FA Cup final but lost in a replay to[Tottenham Hotspur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tottenham_Hotspur_F.C.). The club were twice relegated from the top flight in the 1980s (in 1983 and 1987), but returned to the top flight again in 1989 and finished fifth in 1991 and 1992 under the management of[Peter Reid](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Reid).[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-23) However, this was only a temporary respite, and following Reid's departure Manchester City's fortunes continued to fade. City were co-founders of the [Premier League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Premier_League) upon its creation in 1992, but after finishing ninth in its first season they endured three seasons of struggle before being relegated in 1996. After two seasons in Division One, City fell to the lowest point in their history, becoming the second ever European trophy winners to be relegated to their country's third league tier, after [1. FC Magdeburg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1._FC_Magdeburg) of Germany.

After relegation, the club underwent off-the-field upheaval, with new chairman [David Bernstein](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Bernstein_(executive)) introducing greater fiscal discipline.[[24]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-24) Under manager [Joe Royle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joe_Royle), City were promoted at the first attempt, achieved in dramatic fashion in a play-off against [Gillingham](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gillingham_F.C.). A second successive promotion saw City return to the top division, but this proved to have been a step too far for the recovering club, and in 2001 City were relegated once more. [Kevin Keegan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kevin_Keegan) replaced Royle as manager in the close season, and achieved an immediate return to the top division as the club won the [2001–02](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2001%E2%80%9302_in_English_football) Division One championship, breaking club records for the number of points gained and goals scored in a season in the process.[[25]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-25) The [2002–03 season](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2002%E2%80%9303_in_English_football) was the last at Maine Road, and included a 3–1 derby victory over rivals Manchester United, ending a run of 13 years without a [derby](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_derby) win.[[26]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-26) City also qualified for European competition for the first time in 25 years. In the 2003 close season, the club moved to the new [City of Manchester Stadium](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/City_of_Manchester_Stadium). The first four seasons at the stadium all resulted in mid-table finishes. Former England manager [Sven-Göran Eriksson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sven-G%C3%B6ran_Eriksson) became the club's first manager from overseas when appointed in 2007.[[27]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-27) After a bright start, performances faded in the second half of the season, and Eriksson was sacked in June 2008.[[28]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-28) Eriksson was replaced by [Mark Hughes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mark_Hughes) two days later on 4 June 2008.[[29]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-29)

By 2008, the club was in a financially precarious position. [Thaksin Shinawatra](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thaksin_Shinawatra) had taken control of the club a year before, but his political travails saw his assets frozen.[[30]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-30) Then, in August 2008, the club was purchased by the [Abu Dhabi United Group](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abu_Dhabi_United_Group). The takeover was immediately followed by a flurry of bids for high-profile players; the club broke the British transfer record by signing [Brazilian international](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazil_national_football_team) [Robinho](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robinho) from [Real Madrid](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Real_Madrid_C.F.) for £32.5 million.[[31]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-Robinho-31) Performances were not a huge improvement on the previous season despite the influx of money however, with the team finishing tenth, although they did well to reach the quarter-finals of the [UEFA Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UEFA_Europa_League). During the summer of 2009, the club took transfer spending to an unprecedented level, with an outlay of over £100 million on players [Gareth Barry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gareth_Barry), [Roque Santa Cruz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roque_Santa_Cruz), [Kolo Touré](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kolo_Tour%C3%A9),[Emmanuel Adebayor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emmanuel_Adebayor), [Carlos Tevez](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carlos_Tevez) and [Joleon Lescott](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joleon_Lescott).[[32]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-32) In December 2009, Mark Hughes – who had been hired shortly before the change in ownership but was originally retained by the new board – was replaced as manager by [Roberto Mancini](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roberto_Mancini).[[33]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-33) City finished the season in fifth position in the Premier League, narrowly missing out on a place in the Champions League, and competed in the [UEFA Europa League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UEFA_Europa_League) in season [2010–11](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2010-11_in_English_football).

Manchester City [supporters](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C._supporters) invade the pitch following their [2011–12 Premier League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011%E2%80%9312_Premier_League)title win.

Continued investment in players followed in successive seasons, and results began to match the upturn in player quality. City reached the [2011 FA Cup Final](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011_FA_Cup_Final), their first major final in over 30 years, after defeating derby rivals Manchester United in the semi-final,[[34]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C." \l "cite_note-34) the first time they had knocked their rival out of a cup competition since 1975. They defeated [Stoke City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stoke_City_F.C.) 1–0 in the final, securing their fifth FA Cup, the club's first major trophy since winning the [1976 League Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1976_Football_League_Cup_Final). In the same week, the club qualified for the[UEFA Champions League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UEFA_Champions_League) for the first time since 1968 with a 1–0 Premier League win over Tottenham Hotspur.[[35]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-35) On the last day of the 2010–11 season, City passed [Arsenal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arsenal_F.C.) for third place in the Premier League, thereby securing qualification directly into the Champions League group stage.

Manchester City moved into their new complex at the [Etihad Campus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Etihad_Campus) adjacent to the City of Manchester Stadium in 2014.

Strong performances continued to follow in the 2011–12 season, with the club beginning the following season in commanding form, including beating Tottenham 5–1 at[White Hart Lane](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_Hart_Lane) and humbling Manchester United by a 6–1 scoreline in United's own stadium. Although the strong form waned halfway through the season, and City at one point fell eight points behind their arch rivals with only six games left to play, a slump by United allowed the blue side of Manchester to draw back level with two games to go, setting up a thrilling finale to the season with both teams going into the last day equal on points. Despite City only needing a home win against a team in the relegation zone, they fell a goal behind by the end of normal time, leading some of United's players to finish their game celebrating in the belief that they had won the league. Two goals in injury time – including one scored almost five minutes after normal time had elapsed – resulted in an almost-literal last-minute title victory, City's first in 44 years, and became only the fifth team to win the Premier League since its creation in 1992. In the aftermath that followed, the event was described by media sources from the UK and around the world as the greatest moment in Premier League history.[[36]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-36)[[37]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-37)The game was also notable for former player [Joey Barton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joey_Barton)'s sending off, where he committed three separate red card-able incidents on three different players in the space of only a couple of seconds, resulting in a 12-match ban.[[38]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-38)

The following season City failed to capitalise on the gains made in the first two full seasons of Mancini's reign. While City rarely seemed likely to drop below second in the table, they posed little title challenge all season. In the Champions League, the club was eliminated at the group stage for a second successive season, while a second FA Cup final in three seasons ended in a 1–0 defeat to relegated [Wigan Athletic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wigan_Athletic_A.F.C.).[[39]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-39) Mancini was dismissed two days later, ostensibly as he had failed to reach his targets for the season,[[40]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-40) but [BBC Sports Editor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BBC_Sports_Editor) David Bond reported he had been sacked for his poor communication and relationships with players and executives.[[41]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-41) In his place was appointed the Chilean [Manuel Pellegrini](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manuel_Pellegrini).[[42]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-42) In Pellegrini's first season, City [won the League Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2014_Football_League_Cup_Final)[[43]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-43) and regained the Premier League title on the last day of the season.[[44]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-44)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| * 1892–1899 [Division 2](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Football_League_Second_Division)(L2) * 1899–1902 [Division 1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Football_League_First_Division)(L1) * 1902–1903 [Division 2](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Football_League_Second_Division)(L2) * 1903–1909 [Division 1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Football_League_First_Division)(L1) * 1909–1910 [Division 2](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Football_League_Second_Division)(L2) * 1910–1926 [Division 1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Football_League_First_Division)(L1) | * 1926–1928 [Division 2](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Football_League_Second_Division)(L2) * 1928–1938 [Division 1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Football_League_First_Division)(L1) * 1938–1947 [Division 2](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Football_League_Second_Division)(L2) * 1947–1950 [Division 1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Football_League_First_Division)(L1) * 1950–1951 [Division 2](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Football_League_Second_Division)(L2) * 1951–1963 [Division 1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Football_League_First_Division)(L1) | * 1963–1966 [Division 2](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Football_League_Second_Division) (L2) * 1966–1983 [Division 1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Football_League_First_Division) (L1) * 1983–1985 [Division 2](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Football_League_Second_Division) (L2) * 1985–1987 [Division 1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Football_League_First_Division) (L1) * 1987–1989 [Division 2](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Football_League_Second_Division) (L2) * 1989–1992 [Division 1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Football_League_First_Division) (L1) * 1992–1996 [Premier League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Premier_League)(L1) * 1996–1998 [Division 1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Football_League_First_Division) (L2) | * 1998–1999 [Division 2](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Football_League_Second_Division) (L3) * 1999–2000 [Division 1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Football_League_First_Division) (L2) * 2000–2001 [Premier League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Premier_League)(L1) * 2001–2002 [Division 1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Football_League_First_Division) (L2) * 2002– [Premier League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Premier_League) (L1) |

L1 = Level 1 of the football league system; L2 = Level 2 of the football league system; L3 = Level 3 of the football league system.

## Club badge and colours

Manchester City's [stadium](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/City_of_Manchester_stadium) and shirt have been sponsored by [Etihad Airways](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Etihad_Airways)since 2009.

Manchester City's home colours are sky blue and white. Traditional away [kit](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kit_(football))colours have been either maroon or (from the 1960s) red and black; however, in recent years several different colours have been used. The origins of the club's home colours are unclear, but there is evidence that the club has worn blue since 1892 or earlier. A booklet entitled *Famous Football Clubs – Manchester City* published in the 1940s indicates that West Gorton (St. Marks) originally played in scarlet and black, and reports dating from 1884 describe the team wearing black jerseys bearing a white cross, showing the club's origins as a church side.[[45]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-45) The red and black away colours used infrequently yet recurrently come from former assistant manager [Malcolm Allison](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malcolm_Allison), who believed that adopting the colours of [A.C. Milan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A.C._Milan) would inspire City to glory.[[46]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-46)Allison's theory worked, with City winning the [1969 FA Cup Final](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1969_FA_Cup_Final), [1970 League Cup Final](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1970_League_Cup_Final) and the [1970 European Cup Winners' Cup Final](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1970_European_Cup_Winners%27_Cup_Final) in red and black stripes as opposed to the club's home kit of sky blue.

City have previously worn three other badges on their shirts, prior to their current badge which was implemented in 2016. The first, introduced in 1970, was based on designs which had been used on official club documentation since the mid-1960s. It consisted of a circular badge which used the same shield as the current badge, inside a circle bearing the name of the club. In 1972, this was replaced by a variation which replaced the lower half of the shield with the red rose of Lancashire. On occasions when Manchester City plays in a major cup final, the usual badge has not been used; instead shirts bearing a badge of the arms of the [City of Manchester](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/City_of_Manchester) are used, as a symbol of pride in representing the city of Manchester at a major event. This practice originates from a time when the players' shirts did not normally bear a badge of any kind, but has continued throughout the history of the club.[[47]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-47) For the 2011 FA Cup Final, City used the usual badge with a special legend, but the Manchester coat of arms was included as a small monochrome logo in the numbers on the back of players' shirts.[[48]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-48)

A new club badge was adopted in 1997, as a result of the previous badge being ineligible for registration as a trademark. This badge was based on the [arms](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coat_of_arms) of the city of [Manchester](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester), and consisted of a shield in front of a [golden eagle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden_eagle). The eagle is an old heraldic symbol of the city of Manchester; a golden eagle was added to the city's badge in 1958 (but has since been removed), representing the growing aviation industry. The shield features a ship on its upper half representing the [Manchester Ship Canal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_Ship_Canal), and three diagonal stripes in the lower half symbolise the city's three rivers – the [Irwell](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/River_Irwell), the [Irk](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/River_Irk)and the [Medlock](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/River_Medlock). The bottom of the badge bears the motto "*Superbia in Proelio*", which translates as "Pride in Battle" in[Latin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latin). Above the eagle and shield are three stars, which are purely decorative.

On 15 October 2015, following years of criticism from the fans over the design of the 1997 badge,[[49]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-autogenerated1-49) the club announced they intended to carry out a fan consultation on whether to disregard the club badge and institute a new design.[[49]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-autogenerated1-49) After the consultation, the club announced in late November 2015 the current club badge would be replaced in due course by a new version which would be designed in the style of the older, circular variants.[[50]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-50) A design purporting to be the new badge was unintentionally leaked two days early prior to the official unveiling on 26 December 2015 by the [IPO](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intellectual_Property_Office_(United_Kingdom)) when the design was trademarked on 22 December.[[51]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-BBC_News-51) The new design was officially unveiled at the club's home match on 26 December against [Sunderland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunderland_A.F.C.).[[52]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-52)

### Kit manufacturers and shirt sponsors

Manchester City's shirts have been sponsored by [Etihad Airways](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Etihad_Airways) since 2009. Previous sponsors have been [Saab](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saab_Automobile)(1982–84), [Philips](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philips) (1984–87), [Brother](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brother_Industries) (1987–99), [Eidos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eidos_Interactive) (1999–2002), First Advice (2002–04), and [Thomas Cook](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Cook_Group)(2004–07). Their kits have been manufactured by [Nike](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nike,_Inc.) since 2013. Prior manufacturers have been [Umbro](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Umbro) (1974–97, 2009–13), [Kappa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kappa_(company)) (1997–99), [Le Coq Sportif](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Le_Coq_Sportif) (1999–2003, 2007–09), and [Reebok](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reebok) (2003–07).

## Players

*As of 30 January 2018.*[[53]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C." \l "cite_note-Players-53)[[54]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-54)

### First team squad

Manchester City players before a UEFA Champions League match in 2017. (Top row, left to right: [Ederson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ederson_Moraes), [Walker](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kyle_Walker), [De Bruyne](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kevin_De_Bruyne),[Fernandinho](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fernandinho_(footballer,_born_1985)), [Stones](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Stones), [Otamendi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicol%C3%A1s_Otamendi). Bottom row, left to right: [Aguero](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sergio_Ag%C3%BCero),[Sane](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leroy_San%C3%A9" \o "Leroy Sané), [Silva](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Silva), [Delph](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fabian_Delph), [Jesus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus))

*See also:*[*Manchester City F.C. EDS and Academy*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C._EDS_and_Academy)*and*[*2017–18 Manchester City F.C. season*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017%E2%80%9318_Manchester_City_F.C._season)

Note: Flags indicate national team as defined under [FIFA eligibility rules](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FIFA_eligibility_rules). Players may hold more than one non-FIFA nationality.

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| |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **No.** |  | **Position** | **Player** | | 1 |  | [GK](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goalkeeper_(association_football)) | [Claudio Bravo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Claudio_Bravo) | | 2 |  | [DF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Defender_(association_football)) | [Kyle Walker](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kyle_Walker) | | 3 |  | [DF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Defender_(association_football)) | [Danilo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Danilo_(footballer,_born_July_1991)) | | 4 |  | [DF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Defender_(association_football)) | [Vincent Kompany](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vincent_Kompany) *(*[*captain*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Captain_(association_football))*)* | | 5 |  | [DF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Defender_(association_football)) | [John Stones](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Stones) | | 7 |  | [MF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Midfielder) | [Raheem Sterling](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raheem_Sterling) | | 8 |  | [MF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Midfielder) | [İlkay Gündoğan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C4%B0lkay_G%C3%BCndo%C4%9Fan) | | 10 |  | [FW](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forward_(association_football)) | [Sergio Agüero](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sergio_Ag%C3%BCero) | | 14 |  | [DF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Defender_(association_football)) | [Aymeric Laporte](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aymeric_Laporte) | | 17 |  | [MF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Midfielder) | [Kevin De Bruyne](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kevin_De_Bruyne) | | 18 |  | [MF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Midfielder) | [Fabian Delph](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fabian_Delph) | | 19 |  | [MF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Midfielder) | [Leroy Sané](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leroy_San%C3%A9) | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **No.** |  | **Position** | **Player** | | 20 |  | [MF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Midfielder) | [Bernardo Silva](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bernardo_Silva) | | 21 |  | [MF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Midfielder) | [David Silva](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Silva) *(*[*vice-captain*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Captain_(association_football))*)* | | 22 |  | [DF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Defender_(association_football)) | [Benjamin Mendy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benjamin_Mendy) | | 24 |  | [DF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Defender_(association_football)) | [Tosin Adarabioyo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tosin_Adarabioyo) | | 25 |  | [MF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Midfielder) | [Fernandinho](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fernandinho_(footballer)) | | 30 |  | [DF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Defender_(association_football)) | [Nicolás Otamendi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicol%C3%A1s_Otamendi) | | 31 |  | [GK](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goalkeeper_(association_football)) | [Ederson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ederson_Moraes) | | 33 |  | [FW](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forward_(association_football)) | [Gabriel Jesus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus) | | 35 |  | [MF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Midfielder) | [Oleksandr Zinchenko](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oleksandr_Zinchenko_(footballer)) | | 42 |  | [MF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Midfielder) | [Yaya Touré](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yaya_Tour%C3%A9) | | 47 |  | [MF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Midfielder) | [Phil Foden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phil_Foden) | | 55 |  | [MF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Midfielder) | [Brahim Díaz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brahim_D%C3%ADaz) | |

Source: Manchester City official website

#### Out on loan

Note: Flags indicate national team as defined under [FIFA eligibility rules](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FIFA_eligibility_rules). Players may hold more than one non-FIFA nationality.

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| |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **No.** |  | **Position** | **Player** | | 15 |  | [DF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Defender_(association_football)) | [Eliaquim Mangala](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eliaquim_Mangala) *(at*[*Everton*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Everton_F.C.)*until 30 June 2018)* | | 27 |  | [FW](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forward_(association_football)) | [Patrick Roberts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patrick_Roberts) *(at*[*Celtic*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Celtic_F.C.)*until 30 June 2018)* | | 28 |  | [DF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Defender_(association_football)) | [Jason Denayer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jason_Denayer) *(at*[*Galatasaray*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galatasaray_S.K.)*until 30 June 2018)* | | 29 |  | [FW](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forward_(association_football)) | [Marlos Moreno](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marlos_Moreno) *(at*[*Flamengo*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clube_de_Regatas_do_Flamengo)*until 31 December 2018)* | | 50 |  | [DF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Defender_(association_football)) | [Pablo Maffeo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pablo_Maffeo) *(at*[*Girona*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Girona_FC)*until 30 June 2018)* | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **No.** |  | **Position** | **Player** | | 54 |  | [GK](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goalkeeper_(association_football)) | [Angus Gunn](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angus_Gunn) *(at*[*Norwich City*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norwich_City_F.C.)*until 30 June 2018)* | | 69 |  | [DF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Defender_(association_football)) | [Angeliño](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angeli%C3%B1o_(footballer)) *(at*[*NAC Breda*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NAC_Breda)*until 30 June 2018)* | | 75 |  | [MF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Midfielder) | [Aleix García](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aleix_Garc%C3%ADa) *(at*[*Girona*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Girona_FC)*until 30 June 2018)* | | — |  | [GK](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goalkeeper_(association_football)) | [Joe Hart](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joe_Hart) *(at*[*West Ham United*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Ham_United_F.C.)*until 30 June 2018)* | |

#### Other Manchester City players with first-team appearances

*Main article:*[*Manchester City F.C. EDS and Academy*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C._EDS_and_Academy)

Note: Flags indicate national team as defined under [FIFA eligibility rules](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FIFA_eligibility_rules). Players may hold more than one non-FIFA nationality.

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| |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **No.** |  | **Position** | **Player** | | 43 |  | [FW](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forward_(association_football)) | [Lukas Nmecha](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lukas_Nmecha) | | 59 |  | [FW](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forward_(association_football)) | [Bersant Celina](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bersant_Celina) *(at*[*Ipswich Town*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ipswich_Town_F.C.)*until 30 June 2018)* | | 62 |  | [MF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Midfielder) | [Brandon Barker](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brandon_Barker) *(at*[*Hibernian*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hibernian_F.C.)*until 30 June 2018)* | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **No.** |  | **Position** | **Player** | | 72 |  | [MF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Midfielder) | [Tom Dele-Bashiru](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tom_Dele-Bashiru) | | 76 |  | [MF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Midfielder) | [Manu García](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manu_Garc%C3%ADa_(footballer,_born_1998)) *(at*[*NAC Breda*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NAC_Breda)*until 30 June 2018)* | | 77 |  | [DF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Defender_(association_football)) | [Cameron Humphreys-Grant](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cameron_Humphreys) | |

### Retired numbers

*See also:*[*Retired numbers in association football*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Retired_numbers_in_association_football)

**23**  [Marc-Vivien Foé](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marc-Vivien_Fo%C3%A9), [Midfielder](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Midfielder) (2002–03) – *posthumous honour*.

Since 2003, Manchester City have not issued the squad number 23. It was [retired](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Retired_numbers_in_association_football) in memory of [Marc-Vivien Foé](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marc-Vivien_Fo%C3%A9), who was on loan to the club from [Lyon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olympique_Lyonnais) at the time of his death on the field of play while playing for [Cameroon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cameroon_national_football_team) in the [2003 FIFA Confederations Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2003_FIFA_Confederations_Cup).[[55]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-55)

### Player of the Year

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Year** | **Winner** | | 1985–86 | [Kenny Clements](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kenny_Clements) | | 1986–87 | [Neil McNab](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neil_McNab) | | 1987–88 | [Steve Redmond](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steve_Redmond) | | 1988–89 | [Neil McNab](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neil_McNab) | | 1989–90 | [Colin Hendry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colin_Hendry) | | 1990–91 | [Niall Quinn](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Niall_Quinn) | | 1991–92 | [Tony Coton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tony_Coton) | | 1992–93 | [Garry Flitcroft](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garry_Flitcroft) | | 1993–94 | [Tony Coton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tony_Coton) | | 1994–95 | [Uwe Rösler](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uwe_R%C3%B6sler) | |  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Year** | **Winner** | | 1995–96 | [Georgi Kinkladze](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georgi_Kinkladze) | | 1996–97 | [Georgi Kinkladze](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georgi_Kinkladze) | | 1997–98 | [Michael Brown](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Brown_(footballer,_born_1977)) | | 1998–99 | [Gerard Wiekens](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gerard_Wiekens) | | 1999–2000 | [Shaun Goater](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shaun_Goater) | | 2000–01 | [Danny Tiatto](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Danny_Tiatto) | | 2001–02 | [Ali Benarbia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ali_Benarbia) | | 2002–03 | [Sylvain Distin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sylvain_Distin) | | 2003–04 | [Shaun Wright-Phillips](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shaun_Wright-Phillips) | | 2004–05 | [Richard Dunne](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Dunne) | |  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Year** | **Winner** | | 2005–06 | [Richard Dunne](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Dunne) | | 2006–07 | [Richard Dunne](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Dunne) | | 2007–08 | [Richard Dunne](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Dunne) | | 2008–09 | [Stephen Ireland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen_Ireland) | | 2009–10 | [Carlos Tevez](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carlos_Tevez) | | 2010–11 | [Vincent Kompany](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vincent_Kompany) | | 2011–12 | [Sergio Agüero](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sergio_Ag%C3%BCero) | | 2012–13 | [Pablo Zabaleta](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pablo_Zabaleta) | | 2013–14 | [Yaya Touré](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yaya_Tour%C3%A9) | | 2014–15 | [Sergio Agüero](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sergio_Ag%C3%BCero) | |  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Year** | **Winner** | | 2015–16 | [Kevin De Bruyne](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kevin_De_Bruyne) | | 2016–17 | [David Silva](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Silva) | |

Source:[[56]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C." \l "cite_note-56)[[57]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-57)[[58]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-58)[[59]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-59)[[60]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-60)

## Halls of Fame

*See also:*[*List of Manchester City F.C. players*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Manchester_City_F.C._players)

### Manchester City Hall of Fame

The following former Manchester City players and managers are inductees in the *Manchester City F.C. Hall of Fame*, and are listed according to the year of their induction:

|  |
| --- |
| [[show](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.)]**Inductees in MCFC Hall of Fame** |

### National Football Museum Hall of Fame

The following former Manchester City players and managers are inductees in the [*English Football Hall of Fame*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_Football_Hall_of_Fame) (a.k.a. the*National Football Museum Hall of Fame*) and are listed according to the year of their induction within the various categories:

|  |
| --- |
| [[show](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.)]**Inductees in NFM Hall of Fame** |

Last updated: 1 May 2014.  
Source: [*list of NFM Hall of Fame inductees*](http://www.nationalfootballmuseum.com/hall-of-fame/profiles/)

### Scottish Football Museum Hall of Fame

The following former Manchester City players and managers are inductees in the [*Scottish Football Hall of Fame*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scottish_Football_Hall_of_Fame) (a.k.a. the *Scottish Football Museum Hall of Fame*) and are listed according to the year of their induction within the various categories:

|  |
| --- |
| [[show](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.)]**Inductees in SFM Hall of Fame** |

Last updated: 30 March 2011.  
Source: [*list of SFM Hall of Fame inductees*](https://web.archive.org/web/20060823022235/http:/www.scottishfootballmuseum.org.uk/scottish_football.cfm?curpageid=688)

### Welsh Sports Hall of Fame

The following former Manchester City players are inductees in the [*Welsh Sports Hall of Fame*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Welsh_Sports_Hall_of_Fame) and are listed according to the year of their induction:

|  |
| --- |
| [[show](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.)]**Inductees in SFM Hall of Fame** |

## Non-playing staff

Chairman [Khaldoon Al Mubarak](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khaldoon_Al_Mubarak)

### Corporate hierarchy

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Position** | **Name** |
| Chairman | [Khaldoon Al Mubarak](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khaldoon_Al_Mubarak) |
| Director | [Ruigang Li](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Li_Ruigang) |
| chief executive officer | [Ferran Soriano](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ferran_Soriano) |
| Global Technical Director of the [City Football Group](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/City_Football_Group) | Rodolfo Borrell |
| non-executive director | Mohamed Al Mazrouei |
| non-executive director | Simon Pearce |
| non-executive director | John Macbeath |
| non-executive director | Marty Edelman |
| non-executive director | Alberto Galassi |
| managing director of the [City Football Academy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C._Reserves_and_Academy#Academy) | [Brian Marwood](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brian_Marwood) |

### Management hierarchy

Current City manager [Pep Guardiola](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pep_Guardiola)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Position** | **Name** |
| Director of Football | [Txiki Begiristain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Txiki_Begiristain) |
| Head Coach | [Pep Guardiola](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pep_Guardiola) |
| Assistant Coach | [Brian Kidd](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brian_Kidd) |
| Assistant Coach | [Mikel Arteta](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikel_Arteta) |
| Assistant Coach | Domènec Torrent |
| Assistant Coach | Rodolfo Borrell |
| Goalkeeping coach | [Xabier Mancisidor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xabier_Mancisidor) |
| Fitness coach | Jose Cabello |
| Fitness coach | Lorenzo Buenaventura |
| Video analyst | Carles Planchart |
| First team | [Manuel Estiarte](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manuel_Estiarte) |
| Head of Academy | [Jason Wilcox](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jason_Wilcox) |
| Under-21 Elite Development Manager | [Simon Davies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simon_Davies_(footballer,_born_1974)) |
| Under-21 GK coach | [Andy Mulliner](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andy_Mulliner) |
| Under-18 Academy Team Manager | [Gareth Taylor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gareth_Taylor) |
| Under-18 Academy Assistant Manager | [John Mullin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Mullin_(footballer)) |
| Under-18 GK coach | [Richard Wright](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Wright_(footballer)) |
| Chief scout | Carlo Cancellieri |
| Scout | Jan Říčka |
| Scout | Sebastian Arnesen |
| Scout | Dean Ramsdale |

### Notable managers

*Main article:*[*List of Manchester City F.C. managers*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Manchester_City_F.C._managers)

*Manchester City managers to have won major honours. Table correct as of 22 April 2018*[[66]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-66)[[67]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-67)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **From** | **To** | **Games** | **Wins** | **Draws** | **Loss** | **Win %** | **Honours** |
| [Tom Maley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tom_Maley) | 1902 | 1906 | 150 | 89 | 22 | 39 | 59.33 | [1904 FA Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1904_FA_Cup_Final) |
| [Wilf Wild](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilf_Wild) | 1932 | 1946 | 352 | 158 | 71 | 123 | 44.89 | [1934 FA Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1934_FA_Cup_Final) [1936–37 First Division](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1936%E2%80%9337_Football_League#First_Division) [1937 Charity Shield](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FA_Community_Shield) |
| [Les McDowall](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Les_McDowall) | 1950 | 1963 | 592 | 220 | 127 | 245 | 37.16 | [1956 FA Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1956_FA_Cup_Final) |
| [Joe Mercer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joe_Mercer) | 1965 | 1971 | 340 | 149 | 94 | 97 | 43.82 | [1965–66 Second Division](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1965-66_in_English_football#Second_Division) [1967–68 First Division](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1967-68_in_English_football#First_Division) [1968 Charity Shield](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1968_FA_Charity_Shield) [1969 FA Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1969_FA_Cup_Final) [1970 European Cup Winners' Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1970_European_Cup_Winners%27_Cup_Final) [1970 League Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1970_Football_League_Cup_Final) |
| [Tony Book](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tony_Book) | 1973 | 1980 | 269 | 114 | 75 | 80 | 42.38 | [1976 League Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1976_Football_League_Cup_Final) |
| [Roberto Mancini](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roberto_Mancini) | 2009 | 2013 | 191 | 113 | 38 | 40 | 59.16 | [2011 FA Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011_FA_Cup_Final) [2011–12 Premier League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011%E2%80%9312_Premier_League)  [2012 FA Community Shield](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2012_FA_Community_Shield) |
| [Manuel Pellegrini](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manuel_Pellegrini) | 2013 | 2016 | 167 | 100 | 28 | 39 | 59.88 | [2014 League Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2014_Football_League_Cup_Final) [2013–14 Premier League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2013%E2%80%9314_Premier_League) [2016 League Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016_Football_League_Cup_Final) |
| [Pep Guardiola](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pep_Guardiola) | 2016 | *Incumbent* | 109 | 74 | 18 | 17 | 67.89 | [2018 League Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2018_EFL_Cup_Final) [2017–18 Premier League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017%E2%80%9318_Premier_League) |

## Supporters

*Main article:*[*Manchester City F.C. supporters*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C._supporters)

Since moving to the City of Manchester Stadium, Manchester City's average attendances have been in the top six in England,[[68]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C." \l "cite_note-68) usually in excess of 40,000. Even in the late 1990s, when the club were relegated twice in three seasons and playing in the third tier of English football (then Division Two, now [Football League One](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/EFL_League_One)), home attendances were in the region of 30,000, compared to an average for the division of fewer than 8,000.[[69]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-69) Research carried out by Manchester City in 2005 estimates a fanbase of 886,000 in the United Kingdom and a total in excess of 2 million worldwide, although since the purchase of the club by Sheikh Mansour and the club's recent trophies, that figure has ballooned to many times that size.[[70]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-70)

Manchester City's officially recognised supporters club is the Manchester City FC Supporters Club (1949), formed from a merger of two existing organisations in 2010: the Official Supporters Club (OSC) and the Centenary Supporters Association (CSA).[[71]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-71) There have been several [fanzines](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fanzine) published by supporters; the longest running is [*King of the Kippax*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King_of_the_Kippax) and it is the only one still published.[[72]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-72) The City fans' song of choice is a rendition of "[Blue Moon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_Moon_(song))", which despite its melancholic theme is belted out with gusto as though it were a heroic anthem. City supporters tend to believe that unpredictability is an inherent trait of their team, and label unexpected results "typical City".[[73]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-73)[[74]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-74) Events that fans regard as "typical City" include City's being the only reigning English champions ever to be relegated (in 1938), the only team to score and concede over 100 goals in the same season (1957–58),[[75]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-75) or the more recent example that City were the only team to beat [Chelsea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chelsea_F.C.) in the 2004–05 Premier League, yet in the same season City were knocked out of the FA Cup by[Oldham Athletic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oldham_Athletic_A.F.C.), a team two divisions lower.

Manchester City's biggest rivalry is with neighbours [Manchester United](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_United_F.C.), against whom they contest the [Manchester derby](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_derby). Before the Second World War, when travel to away games was rare, many Mancunian football fans regularly watched both teams even if considering themselves "supporters" of only one. This practice continued into the early 1960s but as travel became easier, and the cost of entry to matches rose, watching both teams became unusual and the rivalry intensified. A common stereotype is that City fans come from Manchester proper, while United fans come from elsewhere. A 2002 report by a researcher at [Manchester Metropolitan University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_Metropolitan_University) found that while it was true that a higher proportion of City season ticket holders came from Manchester [postcode](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postcode) areas (40% compared to United's 29%), there were more United season ticket holders, the lower percentage being due to United's higher overall number of season ticket holders (27,667 compared to City's 16,481). The report noted that since the compiling of data in 2001, the number of both City and United season ticket holders had risen; expansion of United's ground and City's move to the City of Manchester Stadium have caused season ticket sales to increase further.[[76]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-76) Man City also has a rivalry with that of [Everton F.C.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Everton_F.C.)[[77]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-77)

In the late 1980s, City fans started a craze of bringing [inflatable](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inflatable) objects to matches, primarily oversized bananas. One disputed explanation for the craze is that in a match against [West Bromwich Albion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Bromwich_Albion_F.C.) chants from fans calling for the introduction of [Imre Varadi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imre_Varadi) as a substitute mutated into "Imre Banana". Terraces packed with inflatable-waving supporters became a frequent sight in the [1988–89 season](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1988-89_in_English_football) as the craze spread to other clubs (inflatable fish were seen at [Grimsby Town](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grimsby_Town)), with the phenomenon reaching a peak at City's match at [Stoke City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stoke_City_F.C.) on 26 December 1988, a match declared by fanzines as a fancy dress party.[[78]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-78) In 2010, City supporters adopted an exuberant dance, dubbed [The Poznań](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Pozna%C5%84), from fans of Polish club [Lech Poznań](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lech_Pozna%C5%84).[[79]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-79)

## Ownership and finances

*Main article:*[*Manchester City F.C. ownership and finances*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C._ownership_and_finances)

The holding company of Manchester City F.C., Manchester City Limited, is a [private limited company](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Private_limited_company), with approximately 54 million shares in issue. The club has been in private hands since 2007, when the major shareholders agreed to sell their holdings to UK Sports Investments Limited (UKSIL), a company controlled by former Thailand prime minister [Thaksin Shinawatra](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thaksin_Shinawatra). UKSIL then made a formal offer to buy the shares held by several thousand small shareholders.

Prior to the Thaksin takeover, the club was listed on the specialist independent equity market PLUS (formerly OFEX),[[80]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C." \l "cite_note-PLUS-80)where it had been listed since 1995. On 6 July 2007, having acquired 75% of the shares, Thaksin de-listed the club and re-registered it as a private company.[[81]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-81) By August UKSIL had acquired over 90% of the shares, and exercised its rights under the Companies Act to "squeeze out" the remaining shareholders, and acquire the entire shareholding. Thaksin Shinawatra became chairman of the club and two of Thaksin's children, Pintongta and [Oak Chinnawat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Panthongtae_Shinawatra) also became directors. Former chairman John Wardle stayed on the board for a year, but resigned in July 2008 following [Nike](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nike,_Inc.)executive [Garry Cook's](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garry_Cook_(CEO)) appointment as executive chairman in May.[[82]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-82) The club made a pre-tax loss of £11m in the year ending 31 May 2007, the final year for which accounts were published as a public company.[[83]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-83)

Thaksin's purchase prompted a period of transfer spending at the club,[[84]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C." \l "cite_note-84) spending in around £30 million,[[85]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-85) whereas over the previous few seasons net spending had been among the lowest in the division. A year later, this investment was itself dwarfed by larger sums. On 1 September 2008, [Abu Dhabi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abu_Dhabi)-based [Abu Dhabi United Group Investment and Development Limited](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abu_Dhabi_United_Group) completed a takeover of Manchester City. The deal, worth a reported £200 million, was announced on the morning of 1 September. It sparked various transfer "deadline-day" rumours and bids such as the club's attempt to[gazump](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gazump) [Manchester United](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_United_F.C.)'s protracted bid to sign [Dimitar Berbatov](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dimitar_Berbatov) from [Tottenham Hotspur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tottenham_Hotspur_F.C.) for a fee in excess of £30 million.[[86]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-86)[[87]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-87) Minutes before the transfer window closed, the club signed [Robinho](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robinho) from [Real Madrid](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Real_Madrid_C.F.) for a [British record transfer fee](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Progression_of_British_football_transfer_record) of £32.5 million.[[88]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-88) The wealth of the new owners meant that in the summer of 2009, the club was able to finance the purchase of several experienced international players prior to the new season, spending more than any other club in the Premier League.[[89]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-89)

### City Football Group

*Main article:*[*City Football Group*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/City_Football_Group)

Created in the 2013–14 season to manage the global footballing interests of Abu Dhabi United Group, the City Football Group (CFG) is an umbrella corporation owning stakes in a network of global clubs for the purposes of resource sharing, academy networking and marketing. Through the City Football Group, City owns stakes in a number of clubs:

* [Melbourne City FC](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melbourne_City_FC) (2014–present)[[90]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-90)

On 23 January 2014 it was announced that Manchester City had partnered with the Australian rugby league franchise[Melbourne Storm](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melbourne_Storm), purchasing a majority stake in [A-League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A-League) team [Melbourne City FC](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melbourne_City_FC). On 5 August 2015, CFG bought out the Storm and so acquired full ownership of the team.[[91]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-afr-91)

* [Yokohama F. Marinos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yokohama_F._Marinos) (2014–present)[[92]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-92)

On 20 May 2014 it was announced that Manchester City had partnered with the Japanese Automotive company[Nissan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nissan) to become a minority shareholder in [Yokohama](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yokohama) based [J-League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J-League) side, [Yokohama F. Marinos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yokohama_F._Marinos).

* [New York City FC](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_City_FC) (2015–present)[[93]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-93)

On 21 May 2013 it was announced that Manchester City had partnered with the American baseball franchise the [New York Yankees](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_Yankees) to introduce the 20th [Major League Soccer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Major_League_Soccer) expansion team, [New York City FC](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_City_FC) as its majority shareholder. The club began play in the [2015 Major League Soccer season](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015_Major_League_Soccer_season).

* [Club Atlético Torque](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Club_Atl%C3%A9tico_Torque) (2017–present)[[94]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-Torque-94)

On 5 April 2017, CFG confirmed the purchase of Uruguayan second division team [Club Atlético Torque](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Club_Atl%C3%A9tico_Torque).

* [Girona FC](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Girona_FC) (2017–present)[[95]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-Girona-95)

On 23 August 2017 it was announced that the City Football Group had acquired 44.3% of [La Liga](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/La_Liga) side [Girona FC](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Girona_FC). Another 44.3% was held by the Girona Football Group, led by Pere Guardiola, brother of Manchester City manager[Pep Guardiola](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pep_Guardiola).

## Stadium

*Main article:*[*City of Manchester stadium*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/City_of_Manchester_stadium)

*See also:*[*Hyde Road Football Stadium*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hyde_Road_Football_Stadium)*and*[*Maine Road*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maine_Road)

[City of Manchester Stadium](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/City_of_Manchester_Stadium) – the home of Manchester City since 2003

The **City of Manchester Stadium** in east Manchester, known as the **Etihad Stadium** since 2011 for sponsorship reasons, is on a 200-year[lease](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lease) from [Manchester City Council](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_Council). It has been City's home since the end of the 2002–03 season, when the club moved from [Maine Road](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maine_Road).[[96]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-96) Before moving to the stadium, Manchester City spent in excess of £30 million to convert it to football use. The pitch was lowered, adding another tier of seating around it, and a new North Stand built.[[97]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-97) The inaugural match at the new stadium was a 2–1 win over [Barcelona](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FC_Barcelona) in a [friendly match](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friendly_match).[[98]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-98) A 7,000 seat third tier on the South Stand was completed in time for the start of the 2015–16 football season. Current capacity stands at 55,097. A North Stand third tier has planning approval and work on it is expected to begin by 2017, increasing capacity to around 61,000.[[99]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-99)

After playing home matches at five stadiums between 1880 and 1887, the club settled at [Hyde Road Football Stadium](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hyde_Road_Football_Stadium), its home for 36 years.[[100]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-100) A fire destroyed the Main Stand in 1920, and the club moved to the 84,000 capacity Maine Road three years later. Maine Road, nicknamed the "Wembley of the North" by its designers, hosted the largest-ever crowd at an English club ground when 84,569 attended an FA Cup tie against Stoke City on 3 March 1934.[[101]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-101) Though Maine Road was redeveloped several times over its 80-year lifespan, by 1995 its capacity was restricted to 32,000, prompting the search for a new ground which culminated in the move to the City of Manchester Stadium in 2003.

## Honours

### Domestic

#### Leagues

[Manuel Pellegrini](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manuel_Pellegrini) with the Premier League trophy after the victorious[2013–14 season](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2013-14_Premier_League).

* [**First Division**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Football_League_First_Division)**/**[**Premier League**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Premier_League)[[102]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-league-102)
  + **Winners (5):** [1936–37](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1936%E2%80%9337_Football_League), [1967–68](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1967%E2%80%9368_Football_League), [2011–12](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011%E2%80%9312_Premier_League), [2013–14](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2013%E2%80%9314_Premier_League), [2017–18](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017%E2%80%9318_Premier_League)
* [**Second Division**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Football_League_Second_Division)**/**[**First Division**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Football_League_First_Division)[[102]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-league-102)
  + **Winners (7):** [1898–99](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1898%E2%80%9399_Football_League), [1902–03](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1902%E2%80%9303_Football_League), [1909–10](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1909%E2%80%9310_Football_League), [1927–28](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1927%E2%80%9328_Football_League), [1946–47](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1946%E2%80%9347_Football_League), [1965–66](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1965%E2%80%9366_Football_League),[2001–02](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2001%E2%80%9302_Football_League)
* [**Second Division Play-off**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Football_League_One_play-offs)[[102]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-league-102)
  + **Winners (1):** [1998–99](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1999_Football_League_Second_Division_play-off_Final)

#### Cups

* [**FA Cup**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FA_Cup)
  + **Winners (5):** [1903–04](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1904_FA_Cup_Final), [1933–34](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1934_FA_Cup_Final), [1955–56](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1956_FA_Cup_Final), [1968–69](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1969_FA_Cup_Final), [2010–11](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011_FA_Cup_Final)
* [**Football League Cup**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/EFL_Cup)
  + **Winners (5):** [1969–70](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1970_Football_League_Cup_Final), [1975–76](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1976_Football_League_Cup_Final), [2013–14](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2014_Football_League_Cup_Final), [2015–16](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016_Football_League_Cup_Final), [2017–18](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2018_EFL_Cup_Final)
* [**FA Community Shield**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FA_Community_Shield)
  + **Winners (4):** [1937](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1937_FA_Charity_Shield), [1968](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1968_FA_Charity_Shield), [1972](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1972_FA_Charity_Shield), [2012](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2012_FA_Community_Shield)

### European

* [**European Cup Winners' Cup**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Cup_Winners%27_Cup)
  + **Winners (1):** [1969–70](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1970_European_Cup_Winners%27_Cup_Final)

### Doubles

* [1969–70](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1969%E2%80%9370_in_English_football): League Cup and European Cup Winners' Cup
* [2013–14](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2013%E2%80%9314_in_English_football), [2017–18](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017%E2%80%9318_in_English_football): League and League Cup

## Club records

*Main article:*[*List of Manchester City F.C. records and statistics*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Manchester_City_F.C._records_and_statistics)

* **Record League victory** – 11–3 *v.* [Lincoln City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lincoln_City_F.C.) (23 March 1895, most goals scored) 10–0 *v.* [Darwen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darwen_F.C.) (18 February 1899, widest margin of victory)[[103]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-cr509-103)
* **Record FA Cup victory** – 12–0 *v.* Liverpool Stanley (4 October 1890)[[104]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-cr511-104)
* **Record League defeat** – 0–8 *v.* [Burton Wanderers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burton_Wanderers_F.C.) (26 December 1894), 0–8 *v.* [Wolverhampton Wanderers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wolverhampton_Wanderers_F.C.) (23 December 1933), 1–9 *v.* [Everton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Everton_F.C.) (3 September 1906), 2–10 *v.* [Small Heath](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Birmingham_City_F.C.) (17 March 1893)[[103]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-cr509-103)
* **Record FA Cup defeat** – 0–6 *v.* [Preston North End](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Preston_North_End_F.C.) (30 January 1897), 2–8 *v.* [Bradford Park Avenue](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bradford_Park_Avenue_F.C.) (30 January 1946)[[104]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-cr511-104)
* **Highest home attendance** – 84,569 *v.* [Stoke City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stoke_City_F.C.) (3 March 1934)[[105]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-105) (remains the [record home attendance in English football](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Record_home_attendances_of_English_football_clubs))
* **Most League appearances** – 561 + 3 sub, [Alan Oakes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alan_Oakes) 1958–76[[106]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-cr155-106)
* **Most appearances overall** – 676 + 4 sub, [Alan Oakes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alan_Oakes) 1958–76[[106]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-cr155-106)
* **Most goals scored overall** – 199, [Sergio Agüero](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sergio_Ag%C3%BCero) 2011–[[107]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-107)
* **Most goals scored in a season** – 38, [Tommy Johnson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tommy_Johnson_(footballer_born_1900)) 1928–29[[108]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-108)
* **Record transfer fee paid** – £57 million to [Athletic Bilbao](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Athletic_Bilbao) for [Aymeric Laporte](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aymeric_Laporte), January 2018[[109]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-109)
* **Record transfer fee received** – £25 million from [Leicester City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leicester_City_F.C.) for [Kelechi Iheanacho](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kelechi_Iheanacho), August 2017[[110]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.#cite_note-110)

## See also

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| --- | --- |
|  | * [**Book: Manchester City F.C.**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book:Manchester_City_F.C.) |

* [***Association football portal***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portal:Association_football)
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# Gabriel Jesus

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Gabriel Jesus** | | | |
| Jesus lining up for [Brazil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazil_national_under-23_football_team) at the [2016 Summer Olympics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016_Summer_Olympics) | | | |
| **Personal information** | | | |
| **Full name** | Gabriel Fernando de Jesus[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-1) | | |
| **Date of birth** | 3 April 1997 (age 21)[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-SW-2) | | |
| **Place of birth** | [São Paulo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/S%C3%A3o_Paulo), Brazil | | |
| **Height** | 1.75 m (5 ft 9 in)[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-3) | | |
| **Playing position** | [Forward](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forward_(association_football)) | | |
| **Club information** | | | |
| **Current team** | [Manchester City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.) | | |
| **Number** | 33 | | |
| **Youth career** | | | |
| 2010–2012 | Anhanguera | | |
| 2013–2015 | [Palmeiras](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sociedade_Esportiva_Palmeiras) | | |
| **Senior career\*** | | | |
| **Years** | **Team** | **Apps** | **(Gls)** |
| 2015–2017 | [Palmeiras](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sociedade_Esportiva_Palmeiras) | 47 | (16) |
| 2017– | [Manchester City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.) | 35 | (18) |
| **National team‡** | | | |
| 2015– | [Brazil U20](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazil_national_under-20_football_team) | 10 | (2) |
| 2015– | [Brazil U23](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazil_national_under-23_football_team) | 11 | (5) |
| 2016– | [Brazil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazil_national_football_team) | 15 | (9) |
| **Honours**[[show]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus) | | | |
| \* Senior club appearances and goals counted for the domestic league only and correct as of 17:46, 22 April 2018 (UTC) ‡ National team caps and goals correct as of 02:17, 27 March 2018 (UTC) | | | |

**Gabriel Fernando de Jesus** (born 3 April 1997), commonly known as**Gabriel Jesus** (Portuguese pronunciation: [[ɡabɾiˈew ʒɛˈzus]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA/Portuguese)), is a Brazilian professional [footballer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Association_football) who plays as a [forward](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forward_(association_football)) for [Premier League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Premier_League) club[Manchester City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.) and the [Brazil national team](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazil_national_football_team).

Jesus began his career at [Palmeiras](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sociedade_Esportiva_Palmeiras). He was voted the [best newcomer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pr%C3%AAmio_Craque_do_Brasileir%C3%A3o) of the [2015 Campeonato Brasileiro Série A](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015_Campeonato_Brasileiro_S%C3%A9rie_A), a year in which he also helped his team win the [Copa do Brasil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Copa_do_Brasil). The following year he was named the [player of the season](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bola_de_Ouro) as Palmeiras [won their first national league title in 22 years](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016_Campeonato_Brasileiro_S%C3%A9rie_A). He joined Manchester City in January 2017 for a transfer fee of €32 million,[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus" \l "cite_note-CityConfirm-4)and won the [Premier League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Premier_League) and [EFL Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/EFL_Cup) in 2018.

After winning 21 caps and scoring seven goals at youth level, including reaching the final of the [2015 FIFA U-20 World Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015_FIFA_U-20_World_Cup) and winning an [Olympic gold medal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olympic_medal) at the [2016 Summer Olympics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Football_at_the_2016_Summer_Olympics_%E2%80%93_Men%27s_tournament),[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-5) Jesus made his senior debut for[Brazil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazil_national_football_team) in September 2016.

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## Club career[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Gabriel_Jesus&action=edit&section=1&editintro=Template:BLP_editintro" \o "Edit section: Club career)]

### Early career[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Gabriel_Jesus&action=edit&section=2&editintro=Template:BLP_editintro" \o "Edit section: Early career)]

Born in [São Paulo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/S%C3%A3o_Paulo), Jesus grew up in the neighborhood of Jardim Peri. After initially playing street football, he joined amateur clubs in the region, his last one being Associação Atlética Anhanguera.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-PTD-6)[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-7)

### Palmeiras[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Gabriel_Jesus&action=edit&section=3&editintro=Template:BLP_editintro" \o "Edit section: Palmeiras)]

On 1 July 2013, Jesus signed a youth contract with [Palmeiras](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sociedade_Esportiva_Palmeiras).[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-PTD-6) He was also the club's top goalscorer during the year, scoring 54 goals in 48 matches.

In January 2014, after lengthy negotiations, Jesus signed a three-year contract for Palmeiras with an additional two, with his salary to increase from [R$](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazilian_real)15,000 to four times as much in the fifth year; the fee to buy him out from his contract increased tenfold to R$30 million.[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-8) However, the deal changed the balance of his economic rights from 75–25% in favour of Palmeiras, to 70–30% in favour of his agents.[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-estadao-9)

Jesus scored 37 goals in 22 games for Palmeiras in the 2014 edition of the state under-17 championship, leading to offers from clubs throughout the country and abroad.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-PTD-6) He was first included in Palmeiras' squad for a senior match on 27 August 2014, remaining an unused [substitute](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Substitute_(association_football)) as they lost 0–1 at home to [Clube Atlético Mineiro](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clube_Atl%C3%A9tico_Mineiro) in the [first leg of the last 16](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2014_Copa_do_Brasil_knockout_stages) of [the year](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2014_Copa_do_Brasil)'s [Copa do Brasil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Copa_do_Brasil). He did not make any senior appearances during the campaign, as his side was seriously threatened with relegation;[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-10) this decision, took by managers [Ricardo Gareca](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ricardo_Gareca) and [Dorival Júnior](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dorival_J%C3%BAnior), was widely criticized by the supporters, who demanded a change for the youngster through a [petition](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petition).[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-11)

Jesus warming up for[Palmeiras](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sociedade_Esportiva_Palmeiras) in 2015

Jesus made his senior debut on 7 March 2015 in the season's [Campeonato Paulista](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Campeonato_Paulista), replacing [Leandro Pereira](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leandro_Pereira) in the 73rd minute of a 1–0 win over [CA Bragantino](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CA_Bragantino) at [Allianz Parque](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allianz_Parque).[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-12) He totalled eight appearances, all off the bench, as the *Verdão* lost on a[penalty shootout](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Penalty_shootout) in [the final](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015_Campeonato_Paulista) against [Santos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santos_FC).

Jesus made his first career start on 29 April in the [second leg of the second round](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015_Copa_do_Brasil_Second_Round) of [the year's cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015_Copa_do_Brasil), a 1–1 draw at [Sampaio Corrêa Futebol Clube](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sampaio_Corr%C3%AAa_Futebol_Clube) (6–2 aggregate). On 9 May, he made his first appearance in the [Campeonato Brasileiro Série A](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Campeonato_Brasileiro_S%C3%A9rie_A), starting in a 2–2 home draw against Atlético Mineiro on the first day of [the season](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015_Campeonato_Brasileiro_S%C3%A9rie_A).[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-13)

Jesus' first professional goal came in [the next round of the cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015_Copa_do_Brasil_Third_Round), away to [Agremiação Sportiva Arapiraquense](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agremia%C3%A7%C3%A3o_Sportiva_Arapiraquense) on 15 July, the only goal of the two-legged tie.[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-14) On 26 August, his two first-half strikes at the [Estádio Governador Magalhães Pinto](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Est%C3%A1dio_Governador_Magalh%C3%A3es_Pinto) gave Palmeiras a 3–2 win over [Cruzeiro Esporte Clube](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cruzeiro_Esporte_Clube) (5–3 aggregate), putting them into the quarter-finals.[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-15)Four days later he got his first league goals, starting and finishing a 3–2 win over [Joinville Esporte Clube](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joinville_Esporte_Clube); the first goal came after 52 seconds.[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-16)

Jesus finished the campaign with four goals from 20 games, and his team defeated Santos to win the cup; he was also a starter in both legs of [the finals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015_Copa_do_Brasil_Finals), but being substituted before half-time due to a [shoulder](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shoulder) injury. He was elected [Best Newcomer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pr%C3%AAmio_Craque_do_Brasileir%C3%A3o) in the league.[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-CBF-17)

On 4 February 2016, Jesus scored his first *Paulista* goal, opening a 2–2 home draw with [Esporte Clube São Bento](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Esporte_Clube_S%C3%A3o_Bento) in the second game of [the season](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016_Campeonato_Paulista).[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-18) Twelve days later, he scored his first goal in continental football, a 2–2 draw away to Uruguay's [River Plate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Club_Atl%C3%A9tico_River_Plate_(Montevideo)) in the opening game of the [group stage](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016_Copa_Libertadores_second_stage) of [the year's](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016_Copa_Libertadores) [Copa Libertadores](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Copa_Libertadores), after coming on at the interval in place of fellow youngster [Erik Lima](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erik_Lima).[[19]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-19) Away to [Rosario Central](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosario_Central) on 6 April, he scored twice in a 3–3 draw but was sent off for the first time in his career for fighting with Damián Musto; he later apologised for his misconduct.[[20]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-20)

In the opening game of the [national season](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016_Campeonato_Brasileiro_S%C3%A9rie_A) at home to [Clube Atlético Paranaense](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clube_Atl%C3%A9tico_Paranaense) on 14 May, Jesus scored twice in the second half of a 4–0 win.[[21]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-21) He scored 12 goals as the team won their first national championship since 1994, and was named [*Bola de Ouro*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bola_de_Ouro) for player of the season.[[22]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-22)

### Manchester City[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Gabriel_Jesus&action=edit&section=4&editintro=Template:BLP_editintro" \o "Edit section: Manchester City)]

Gabriel Jesus in action against[Shakhtar Donetsk](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shakhtar_Donetsk) in September 2017

On 3 August 2016, it was announced that Jesus would sign for [Premier League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Premier_League)club [Manchester City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.) in January 2017 on a contract until the summer of 2021.[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-23)City paid a reported fee of £27 million/€33 million, plus add-ons.[[24]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-24) The transfer was fully completed on 19 January 2017.

Jesus made his first Premier League appearance on 21 January, coming on as an 82nd-minute substitute for [Raheem Sterling](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raheem_Sterling) in a 2–2 draw with [Tottenham Hotspur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tottenham_Hotspur_F.C.)at the [City of Manchester Stadium](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/City_of_Manchester_Stadium).[[25]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-25) A week later, Jesus made his first appearance in Manchester City's starting XI, assisting a goal for [Raheem Sterling](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raheem_Sterling)in a 3–0 [FA Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016%E2%80%9317_FA_Cup) win over [Crystal Palace](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crystal_Palace_F.C.).[[26]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-26) On 1 February he made his first[Premier League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Premier_League) start in place of [Sergio Agüero](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sergio_Ag%C3%BCero), and assisted [Kevin De Bruyne](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kevin_De_Bruyne) in the 17th minute and then scored his first goal for the club in the 39th. With this, he became the first Manchester City player to have a goal and an assist in their first Premier League start, as well as only the third City player to be involved in two or more goals in their first Premier League start.[[27]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-27) In his fourth game (third league start) Jesus broke a metatarsal in his right foot and was expected to be out for the remainder of the [2016–17 Premier League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016%E2%80%9317_Premier_League) season.[[28]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-28) However, he returned in April for the [Manchester Derby](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_Derby), coming on as a substitute in a goalless draw.[[29]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-29) Jesus ended the 2016–17 season with 7 goals and 4 assists in 11 games.[[30]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-30)

He scored his first Premier League goal of the [2017–18 season](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017%E2%80%9318_Premier_League) on 26 August, an equaliser in a 2–1 away win over [AFC Bournemouth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A.F.C._Bournemouth),[[31]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-31) and added two more in a 5–0 win against [Liverpool](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liverpool_F.C.) on 9 September.[[32]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-32) He had a 14-game goal drought between 18 November 2017 and 7 March 2018 that encompassed a knee medial ligament injury on New Year's Eve, and after breaking his duck in the Champions League loss to [FC Basel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FC_Basel) he admitted that fear of getting injured was affecting his game.[[33]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-33)

## International career[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Gabriel_Jesus&action=edit&section=5&editintro=Template:BLP_editintro" \o "Edit section: International career)]

Jesus on his debut with senior national team.

Jesus was part of the [Brazil under-20 team](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazil_national_under-20_football_team) that finished as runners-up at the[2015 U-20 World Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015_FIFA_U-20_World_Cup) in New Zealand. He scored their first goal of the tournament in a 4–2 win over [Nigeria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria_national_under-20_football_team) in [New Plymouth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Plymouth),[[34]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-34) and converted as they advanced past [Uruguay](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uruguay_national_under-20_football_team) and [Portugal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portugal_national_under-20_football_team) on penalties.

In 2016, he was chosen in [Dunga](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dunga)'s provisional 40-man squad for the [Copa América Centenario](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Copa_Am%C3%A9rica_Centenario) in the United States, and was considered as a replacement for the injured [Douglas Costa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Douglas_Costa) in the final selection but missed out through the lack of a [U.S. visa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Visa_policy_of_the_United_States).[[35]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-35) Later that year, he was one of five forwards named in the squad for the team's hosting of the [Olympic tournament](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Football_at_the_2016_Summer_Olympics_%E2%80%93_Men%27s_tournament).[[36]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-36) He scored twice against Danish keeper [Jeppe Højbjerg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jeppe_H%C3%B8jbjerg) in their final group game against [Denmark](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Denmark_national_under-21_football_team), an eventual 4–0 win, and in the semi-final against [Honduras](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Honduras_national_under-23_football_team) he added two more in a 6–0 victory.[[37]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-37) Jesus won the Olympics with his team against Germany in a penalty shootout, scoring one of the penalties.[[38]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-38)

Jesus made his debut for the senior team on 1 September 2016, in a [2018 FIFA World Cup qualification](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2018_FIFA_World_Cup_qualification_(CONMEBOL)) game against[Ecuador](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ecuador_national_football_team) in [Quito](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quito). He started the match and scored twice, as Brazil won 3–0.[[39]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-39)[[40]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-40) Jesus was Brazil's highest scorer in the[CONMEBOL](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CONMEBOL) World Cup qualifiers, with 7 goals in 10 matches.[[41]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-41)

## Style of play[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Gabriel_Jesus&action=edit&section=6&editintro=Template:BLP_editintro" \o "Edit section: Style of play)]

A talented and versatile forward, Jesus is capable of playing in several attacking positions: he has been deployed as a[centre forward](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forward_(association_football)#Centre-forward), as an out-and-out [striker](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forward_(association_football)#Striker), as a [false 9](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forward_(association_football)#False_9), as an [inside forward](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forward_(association_football)#Second_striker), as a [winger](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Midfielder#Winger) or as an [attacking midfielder](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Midfielder#Attacking_midfielder), and is renowned for his pace, technical skills, [dribbling](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dribbling#Association_football) ability, creativity, finishing, movement, and work ethic. Former Brazilian forward [Ronaldo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ronaldo_(Brazilian_footballer)) has praised Jesus and touted him for future success with the [Brazilian national team](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazil_national_football_team).[[42]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-neymar-42)[[43]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-43)

## Personal life[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Gabriel_Jesus&action=edit&section=7&editintro=Template:BLP_editintro" \o "Edit section: Personal life)]

Gabriel Jesus came to England with his mother and older brother along with two friends, although he said that he would have brought his whole neighborhood if he could.[[44]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-44) His mother Vera Lucia is a prominent figure in his life who phones him before every game.[[45]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-45) He comes from a religious family and reportedly chose to wear the number 33 in tribute to the age at which Jesus Christ is believed to have been [crucified](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crucifixion_of_Jesus).[[46]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-46)[[47]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-47) He and [Neymar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neymar) got matching tattoos in August 2016 depicting a boy overlooking a [favela](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Favela).[[48]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-48)[[49]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-49)

## Career statistics[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Gabriel_Jesus&action=edit&section=8&editintro=Template:BLP_editintro" \o "Edit section: Career statistics)]

### Club[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Gabriel_Jesus&action=edit&section=9&editintro=Template:BLP_editintro" \o "Edit section: Club)]

*As of match played 22 April 2018*[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-SW-2)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Appearances and goals by club, season and competition** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Club** | **Season** | **League** | | | **National Cup**[[a]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-50) | | [**EFL Cup**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/EFL_Cup) | | **Continental** | | **Other** | | **Total** | |
| **Division** | **Apps** | **Goals** | **Apps** | **Goals** | **Apps** | **Goals** | **Apps** | **Goals** | **Apps** | **Goals** | **Apps** | **Goals** |
| [Palmeiras](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sociedade_Esportiva_Palmeiras) | [2015](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015_Sociedade_Esportiva_Palmeiras_season)[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-SW-2) | [Série A](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Campeonato_Brasileiro_S%C3%A9rie_A) | 20 | 4 | 9 | 3 | — | | — | | 8[[b]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-CP-51) | 0 | 37 | 7 |
| [2016](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016_Sociedade_Esportiva_Palmeiras_season)[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-SW-2) | Série A | 27 | 12 | 2 | 0 | — | | 5[[c]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-52) | 4 | 12[[b]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-CP-51) | 5 | 46 | 21 |
| **Total** | | **47** | **16** | **11** | **3** | **—** | | **5** | **4** | **20** | **5** | **83** | **28** |
| [Manchester City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.) | [2016–17](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016%E2%80%9317_Manchester_City_F.C._season)[[50]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-53) | [Premier League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Premier_League) | 10 | 7 | 1 | 0 | — | | 0 | 0 | — | | 11 | 7 |
| [2017–18](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017%E2%80%9318_Manchester_City_F.C._season)[[51]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-54) | Premier League | 25 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 9[[d]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-55) | 4 | — | | 38 | 15 |
| **Total** | | **35** | **18** | **1** | **0** | **4** | **0** | **9** | **4** | **—** | | **49** | **22** |
| **Career total** | | | **82** | **34** | **12** | **3** | **4** | **0** | **14** | **8** | **20** | **5** | **132** | **50** |

* 1. [**Jump up^**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_ref-50) Appearances in [Copa do Brasil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Copa_do_Brasil) and [FA Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FA_Cup)
  2. ^ [Jump up to:***a***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_ref-CP_51-0) [***b***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_ref-CP_51-1) Appearances in [Campeonato Paulista](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Campeonato_Paulista)
  3. [**Jump up^**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_ref-52) Appearances in [Copa Libertadores](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Copa_Libertadores)
  4. [**Jump up^**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_ref-55) Appearances in [UEFA Champions League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UEFA_Champions_League)

### International[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Gabriel_Jesus&action=edit&section=10&editintro=Template:BLP_editintro" \o "Edit section: International)]

*As of match played 27 March 2018*[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-SW-2)[[52]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-NFT-56)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Appearances and goals by national team and year** | | | |
| **National team** | **Year** | **Apps** | **Goals** |
| [Brazil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazil_national_football_team) | 2016 | 6 | 5 |
| 2017 | 7 | 3 |
| 2018 | 2 | 1 |
| **Total** | | **15** | **9** |

### International goals[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Gabriel_Jesus&action=edit&section=11&editintro=Template:BLP_editintro" \o "Edit section: International goals)]

*Scores and results list Brazil's goal tally first, score column indicates score after each Jesus goal.*[[52]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-NFT-56)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **International goals by date, venue, cap, opponent, score, result and competition** | | | | | | | |
| **No.** | **Date** | **Venue** | **Cap** | **Opponent** | **Score** | **Result** | **Competition** |
| 1. | 1 September 2016 | [Estadio Olímpico Atahualpa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Estadio_Ol%C3%ADmpico_Atahualpa), [Quito](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quito), Ecuador | 1 | [Ecuador](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ecuador_national_football_team) | 2–0[[53]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-57) | 3–0 | [2018 FIFA World Cup qualification](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2018_FIFA_World_Cup_qualification_(CONMEBOL)) |
| 2. | 3–0 |
| 3. | 6 October 2016 | [Arena das Dunas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arena_das_Dunas), [Natal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natal,_Rio_Grande_do_Norte), Brazil | 3 | [Bolivia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bolivia_national_football_team) | 4–0 | 5–0 |
| 4. | 11 October 2016 | [Estadio Metropolitano de Mérida](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Estadio_Metropolitano_de_M%C3%A9rida),[Mérida](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/M%C3%A9rida,_M%C3%A9rida), Venezuela | 4 | [Venezuela](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Venezuela_national_football_team) | 1–0 | 2–0 |
| 5. | 15 November 2016 | [Estadio Nacional de Lima](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Estadio_Nacional_de_Lima), [Lima](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lima), Peru | 6 | [Peru](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peru_national_football_team) | 1–0 | 2–0 |
| 6. | 10 October 2017 | [Allianz Parque](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allianz_Parque), [São Paulo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/S%C3%A3o_Paulo), Brazil | 11 | [Chile](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chile_national_football_team) | 2–0 | 3–0 |
| 7. | 3–0 |
| 8. | 10 November 2017 | [Stade Pierre-Mauroy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stade_Pierre-Mauroy), [Villeneuve-d'Ascq](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Villeneuve-d%27Ascq), France | 12 | [Japan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japan_national_football_team) | 3–0 | 3–1 | [Friendly](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exhibition_game#Association_football) |
| 9. | 27 March 2018 | [Olympiastadion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olympiastadion_(Berlin)), [Berlin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Berlin), Germany | 15 | [Germany](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germany_national_football_team) | 1–0 | 1–0 |

## Honours[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Gabriel_Jesus&action=edit&section=12&editintro=Template:BLP_editintro" \o "Edit section: Honours)]

**Palmeiras**

* [Campeonato Brasileiro Série A](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Campeonato_Brasileiro_S%C3%A9rie_A): [2016](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016_Campeonato_Brasileiro_S%C3%A9rie_A)[[54]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-58)
* [Copa do Brasil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Copa_do_Brasil): [2015](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015_Copa_do_Brasil)[[55]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-59)

**Manchester City**

* [EFL Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/EFL_Cup): [2017–18](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017%E2%80%9318_EFL_Cup)[[56]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-60)

Jesus celebrating with his Olympic gold medal in 2016

**Brazil**

* [Olympic Gold Medal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Football_at_the_Summer_Olympics#Men's_results): [2016](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Football_at_the_2016_Summer_Olympics_%E2%80%93_Men%27s_tournament)[[57]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-61)

**Individual**

* [Campeonato Brasileiro Série A Best Newcomer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pr%C3%AAmio_Craque_do_Brasileir%C3%A3o): [2015](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015_Campeonato_Brasileiro_S%C3%A9rie_A)[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-CBF-17)
* [Campeonato Brasileiro Série A Best Player](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pr%C3%AAmio_Craque_do_Brasileir%C3%A3o): [2016](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016_Campeonato_Brasileiro_S%C3%A9rie_A)[[58]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-craque-62)
* [Campeonato Brasileiro Série A Team of the Year](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Campeonato_Brasileiro_S%C3%A9rie_A_Team_of_the_Year): 2016[[58]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-craque-62)
* [Bola de Ouro](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bola_de_Ouro): 2016[[59]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-bdp-63)
* [Bola de Prata](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bola_de_Ouro): 2016[[59]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_note-bdp-63)

## References[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Gabriel_Jesus&action=edit&section=13&editintro=Template:BLP_editintro" \o "Edit section: References)]

* 1. [**Jump up^**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_ref-1) [*"Updated squads for 2017/18 Premier League confirmed"*](https://www.premierleague.com/news/612828). Premier League. 2 February 2018*. Retrieved 12 February 2018*.
  2. ^ [Jump up to:***a***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_ref-SW_2-0) [***b***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_ref-SW_2-1) [***c***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_ref-SW_2-2) [***d***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_ref-SW_2-3) [***e***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Jesus#cite_ref-SW_2-4) [*"Gabriel Jesus"*](https://int.soccerway.com/players/gabriel-fernando-de-jesus/364017/).Soccerway. Perform Group*. Retrieved 28 January 2018*.
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