

Growth of International Players in Baseball

I. INTRODUCTION

In recent years, Major League Baseball (MLB) teams are sending scouts to look for international prospects to bolster their teams. With a focused effort on finding prospects outside of the US, baseball has become more than “America’s Pastime.” In MLB history, which decades had the greatest ratio of internationally born players? Of the decades with highest international born players, which countries had the most players in the league?

II. DATASET

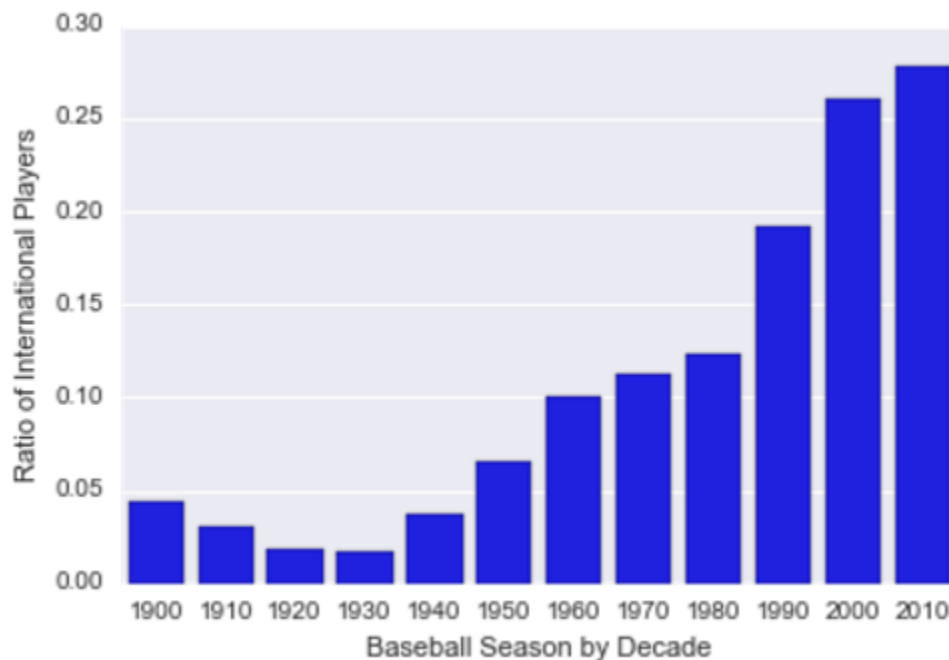
“Appearances” and “Master” datasets were used for this analysis. The Appearances Dataset provides which years a players played in and the Master Dataset contains birth information about the players.

III. DATA PREPERATION

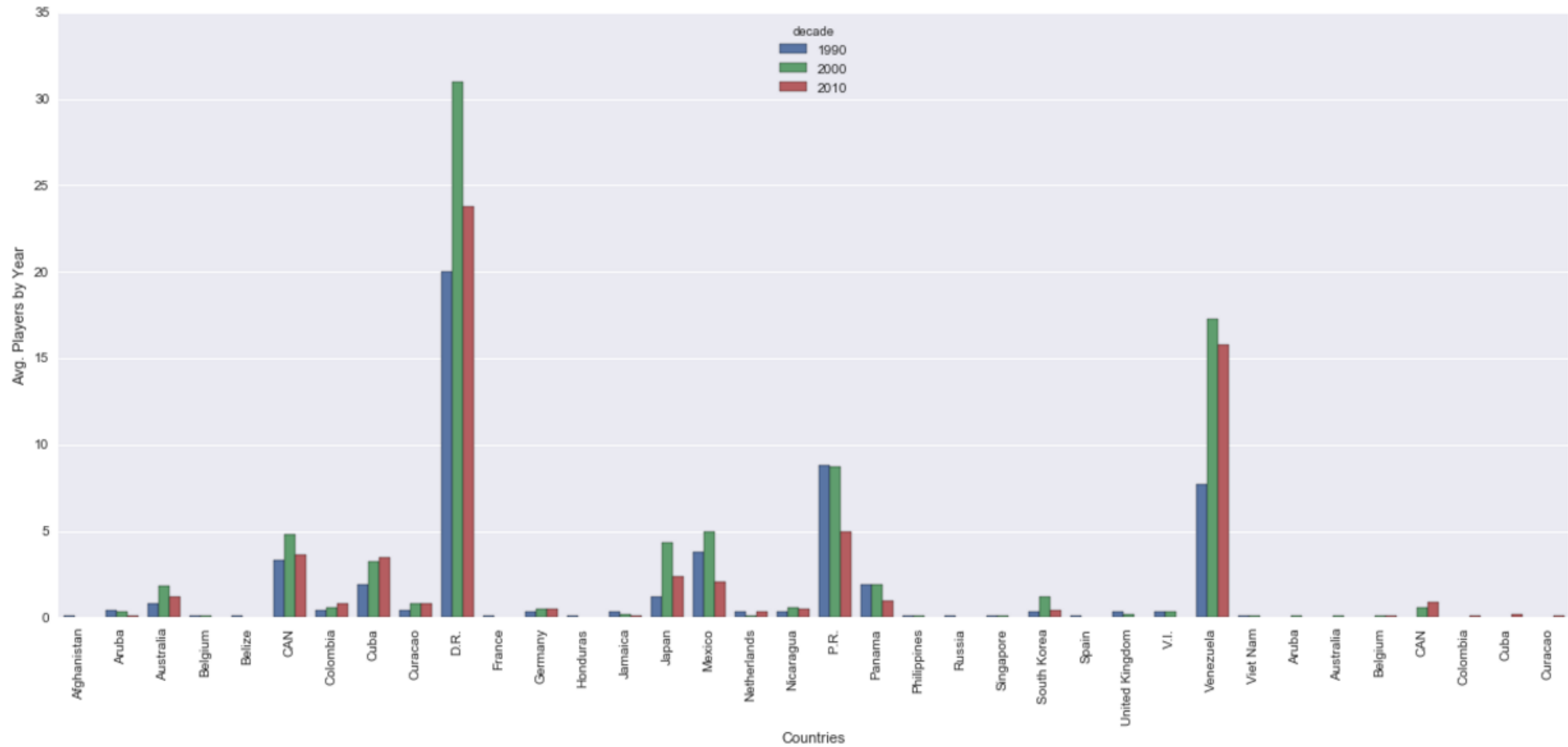
Since the MLB was founded in 1903, the “Appearance” dataset were modified to only include players that played in 1903 to 2014. The “Masters” dataset is merged into “Appearances”, to match players and their birth country.

IV. ANALYSIS

After the 1930’s, there was a steady increase of international born players in the league. The 1990s to 2010s had the highest ratio where >19% of the league were internationally born players.



On average, the Dominican Republic, Venezuela, and Puerto Rico had the most players in the league by year during the 1990 to 2010 decades.



Sources

Download Lahman's Baseball Database. (n.d.). Retrieved July 07, 2016, from <http://www.seanlahman.com/baseball-archive/statistics/>

National League of baseball is founded. (n.d.). Retrieved July 06, 2016, from <http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/national-league-of-baseball-is-founded>