



## 2017–18 Arsenal F.C. season

The **2017–18 season** was Arsenal's 26th season in the Premier League and 92nd consecutive season in the top flight of English football. The club participated in the Premier League, the FA Cup (as holders), the EFL Cup, the FA Community Shield and the UEFA Europa League.

This was the first season that Arsenal did not participate in the UEFA Champions League since 1997–98. It was the first time they had played in the UEFA Europa League since its rebranding, having last participated in the 1999–2000 UEFA Cup. A relatively poor season saw Arsenal fail to maintain a consistent challenge for Champions League qualification, with their away form being a major factor, only winning four away games in the league all season with 11 defeats, and they were, until the final game of the season, the only team in England's top 4 divisions to not get a point away from home in the 2018 calendar year. A total of 13 defeats were recorded throughout the league campaign, the highest since the 1994–95 season, which resulted in a 6th-place finish. Furthermore, a shock 4–2 defeat at Nottingham Forest meant that Arsenal were knocked out of the FA Cup third round for the first time since 1996.

Arsenal were runners-up in the League Cup, being defeated 3–0 in the final against Manchester City. Arsenal were close to winning their first European trophy since the Cup Winners' Cup in 1994, but a 2–1 defeat on aggregate against Atlético Madrid in the semi-finals resulted in another season in the Europa League.

The season was the 21st straight and final season under manager Arsène Wenger, who announced his departure from the club on 20 April 2018.<sup>[1]</sup> This season covered the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018.




### Background

The 2017–18 season marked Arsenal's 26th consecutive year in the Premier League and their 114th season in the English top division. The club extended their record of consecutive seasons in England's top division to 92,<sup>[3]</sup> the longest continuous run in the division's history. The streak began with Arsenal's promotion in the 1919–20 season, prior to the Second World War.<sup>[4]</sup> During the previous season Arsenal won the FA Cup, the club's 13th overall and seventh under veteran manager Arsène Wenger, who celebrated 22 years in charge of Arsenal this season. However, Arsenal finished fifth in the Premier League outside of UEFA Champions League qualification, it was the first year since the 1996–97 season that Arsenal had not qualified for the Champions League. Instead, this season they played in the UEFA Europa League.<sup>[5]</sup>

Arsenal's first Summer signing was full-back Sead Kolašinac, the Bosnia-Herzegovina international joined the club on a free transfer to compete with Arsenal's established left-back Nacho Monreal.<sup>[6]</sup> Arsenal later spent a club record £46.5 million on the French striker Alexandre Lacazette, who joined from Ligue 1 side Lyon. The transfer fee surpassed the £42.4 million Arsenal paid for Mesut Özil in 2013.<sup>[2]</sup> Also during the Summer, the club let go of long-term goalkeeper Wojciech Szczęsny,<sup>[7]</sup> defender Kieran Gibbs,<sup>[8]</sup> and England international Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, who in the final year of his contract joined Liverpool for a club record sale of £35 million.<sup>[9]</sup>

During the January transfer window, Arsenal signed Greek defender Konstantinos Mavropanos, who joined the club from PAS Giannina.<sup>[10]</sup> Following a long fallout between the club and winger Alexis Sánchez,<sup>[11]</sup> the Chilean international joined Manchester United in a swap deal which saw Henrikh Mkhitaryan join Arsenal. Mkhitaryan left Manchester United only 18 months after José

### Arsenal

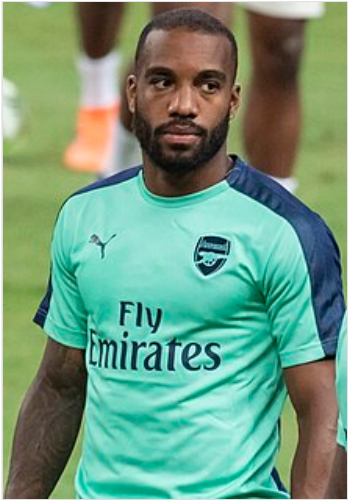
2017–18 season	
<b>Chairman</b>	<span><span></span></span> Chips Keswick
<b>Manager</b>	<span><span></span></span> Arsène Wenger
<b>Stadium</b>	<span><span></span></span> Emirates Stadium
<b>Premier League</b>	6th
<b>FA Community Shield</b>	<b>Winners</b>
<b>FA Cup</b>	Third round
<b>EFL Cup</b>	Runners-up
<b>UEFA Europa League</b>	Semi-finals
<b>Top goalscorer</b>	League: <div><span><span></span></span> Alexandre Lacazette (14)</div> All: <div><span><span></span></span> Alexandre Lacazette (17)</div>
<b>Highest home attendance</b>	59,547 vs. <span><span></span></span> Manchester United (2 December 2017, Premier League)
<b>Lowest home attendance</b>	25,909 vs. <span><span></span></span> BATE Borisov (7 December 2017, UEFA Europa League)
<b>Average home league attendance</b>	59,323
<b>Biggest win</b>	6–0 vs. <span><span></span></span> BATE Borisov (H) (7 December 2017, UEFA Europa League)
<b>Biggest defeat</b>	4–0 vs. <span><span></span></span> Liverpool (A) (27 August 2017, Premier League)
<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> <div><b>Home colours</b><b>Away colours</b><b>Third colours</b></div>	

Mourinho bought the winger from Borussia Dortmund; on the club website the player said it was a "dream" to join Arsenal and he looked forward to making history.<sup>[12]</sup> Arsenal once again surpassed their club record transfer fee when they signed Gabon international Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang from Borussia Dortmund on deadline day for £56 million. The striker signed a long-term contract, and following his success in the Bundesliga, Aubameyang was projected to be an enormous attacking threat.<sup>[13]</sup> Also in January, Arsenal let go of long-term forward Theo Walcott,<sup>[14]</sup> defender Mathieu Debuchy,<sup>[15]</sup> and high-profile striker Olivier Giroud, who joined London rivals Chelsea for £18 million.<sup>[16]</sup>

Following an underwhelming year, Wenger's future at the club was uncertain heading into the season. Fans were divided in their opinions of the veteran manager, and discontent among players, notably Sánchez and Özil, became major talking points in the media before the season began.<sup>[17]</sup>

## Pre-season

In April 2016, Arsenal announced plans to play two pre-season friendlies against Sydney FC and Western Sydney Wanderers in Australia ahead of the 2017–18 season.<sup>[18]</sup> It was the first time Arsenal played in Australia since 1977, when the team visited as part of the World of Soccer Cup.<sup>[19]</sup> The "Gunners" won both matches matches comfortably and later travelled to China to play Bayern Munich and Chelsea in Shanghai and Beijing respectively.<sup>[20]</sup> Following a penalty win over Bayern and a thorough defeat against Chelsea,<sup>[21]</sup> Arsenal returned to London to host the Emirates Cup at the club's home stadium which featured Benfica, Sevilla and RB Leipzig. The "Gunners" picked up their third consecutive Emirates Cup after beating Benfica 5–2 and losing to Sevilla 2–1.<sup>[22]</sup>



Lacazette pictured in 2018: Wenger bought the player because of his strong character, technical qualities, and efficient finishing.<sup>[2]</sup>

## Match details

### Key

- N = Neutral venue
- H = Home match
- A = Away match
- In the result column, Arsenal's score is shown first
- o.g. = Own goal

### Results

Date	Competition	Opponents	Result	Goalscorers	Attendance	Ref.
13 July 2017	<u>Friendly</u>	 <u>Sydney FC</u> (A)	2–0	<u>Mertesacker</u> , <u>Lacazette</u>	80,432	<sup>[23]</sup>
15 July 2017	<u>Friendly</u>	 <u>Western Sydney Wanderers</u> (A)	3–1	<u>Giroud</u> , <u>Ramsey</u> , <u>Elneny</u>	83,221	<sup>[20]</sup>
19 July 2017	<u>International Champions Cup</u>	 <u>Bayern Munich</u> (N)	1–1 (3–2 p)	<u>Iwobi</u>	39,208	<sup>[24]</sup>
22 July 2017	<u>Friendly</u>	<u>Chelsea</u> (N)	0–3		55,618	<sup>[21]</sup>
29 July 2017	<u>Emirates Cup</u>	 <u>Benfica</u> (H)	5–2	<u>Walcott</u> (2), <u>López</u> (o.g.), <u>Giroud</u> , <u>Iwobi</u>	54,538	<sup>[25]</sup>
30 July 2017	<u>Emirates Cup</u>	 <u>Sevilla</u> (H)	1–2	<u>Lacazette</u>	57,968	<sup>[26]</sup>

## FA Community Shield

As winners of the FA Cup in the previous season, Arsenal contested the 2017 FA Community Shield against league champions Chelsea. [Victor Moses](#) gave Chelsea the lead after capitalising on a poor Arsenal clearance early in the second half. Arsenal later equalised after [Kolašinac](#) scored from a free-kick, it was the Bosnian's first appearance and goal for the club. A penalty shoot-out followed the stalemate, with misses from Chelsea's [Thibaut Courtois](#) and [Álvaro Morata](#), Arsenal lifted the trophy.<sup>[27]</sup>



Wenger praised Arsenal's composure after conceding from a mistake.<sup>[27]</sup>

### Match details

#### Key

- In the result column, Arsenal's score is shown first

#### Results<sup>[28]</sup>

Date	Opponents	Result	Goalscorer	Attendance	Venue
6 August 2017	<a href="#">Chelsea</a>	<a href="#">1–1</a> (4–1 p)	<a href="#">Kolašinac</a>	83,285	<a href="#">Wembley Stadium</a>

## Premier League

### August–October

Arsenal began their league campaign at home against [Leicester City](#). Ahead of the opener, Wenger emphasised the importance of starting the season strong, especially since the club had won just one of their previous five opening matches. Lacazette made history as the Premier League's fastest-scoring debutant, heading in [Mohamed Elneny](#)'s cross after just 94 seconds. However, Leicester quickly equalised through [Shinji Okazaki](#), and [Jamie Vardy](#) soon put them in front. [Danny Welbeck](#) levelled the score just before halftime, but Vardy restored Leicester's lead with a header from [Riyad Mahrez](#)'s corner. Wenger's inspired substitutions then sparked Arsenal's comeback, with [Aaron Ramsey](#) firing in an angled drive and Giroud sealing the victory with a powerful header from [Granit Xhaka](#)'s corner.<sup>[29]</sup> However, Arsenal's momentum was short-lived. They were humiliated by [Stoke City](#), losing 1–0 to a [Jesé](#) goal early in the second half.<sup>[30]</sup> Their misery deepened before the [international break](#) with a 4–0 defeat by [Liverpool](#) at [Anfield](#). On [BBC Radio 5 Live](#), [Robbie Savage](#) remarked, "Liverpool haven't beaten Arsenal, they have destroyed them. Thumped them. Torn them apart."<sup>[31]</sup>



Arsenal players Kolašinac (left) and [Héctor Bellerín](#) celebrating the former's goal against Swansea City in October

In early September, Arsenal secured a crucial 3–0 victory over [Bournemouth](#), a must-win game following their challenging start to the season. A brace from Welbeck and a curled finish from Lacazette allowed Arsenal to secure a comfortable victory over their struggling opponents at the Emirates.<sup>[32]</sup> On 17 September, the "Gunners" earned their first point at [Stamford Bridge](#) in six years with a 0–0 draw against Chelsea.<sup>[33]</sup> Shortly after, Arsenal defeated [West Bromwich Albion](#) 2–0 at home, capping off September on a high.<sup>[34]</sup>

After a solid 2–0 victory over [Brighton & Hove Albion](#) on 1 October,<sup>[35]</sup> Arsenal traveled to [Vicarage Road](#), where [Per Mertesacker](#)'s header initially put them ahead against [Watford](#). However, a controversial penalty converted by [Troy Deeney](#) and a late winner from [Tom Cleverley](#) handed Arsenal a 2–1 defeat at Vicarage Road.<sup>[36]</sup> The team then headed to [Goodison Park](#) to face a struggling [Everton](#). [Monreal](#), [Özil](#), Lacazette, Ramsey, and [Sánchez](#) all scored in a 5–2 victory, with Everton's goals coming from [Wayne Rooney](#) and [Oumar Niasse](#).<sup>[37]</sup> Returning to the Emirates, Arsenal faced a tough challenge against [Swansea City](#). Despite trailing 1–0 at halftime, they avoided embarrassment by mounting a determined comeback. Goals from Kolašinac and Ramsey ensured Arsenal finished October in fourth place.<sup>[38]</sup>

### November–February

At the [Etihad Stadium](#) in early November, Arsenal took on league leaders [Manchester City](#). [Kevin De Bruyne](#) opened the scoring for the hosts after a clever exchange with [Fernandinho](#), firing a low shot past [Petr Čech](#) into the far post. In the second half, [Monreal](#) fouled [Raheem Sterling](#) in the box, leading to a contentious penalty that [Sergio Agüero](#) converted to double City's lead. Substitute Lacazette pulled one back for Arsenal, but [Gabriel Jesus](#) sealed the victory for Manchester City with a close-range finish. [Stephan Shemilt](#) of [BBC Sport](#) noted that Arsenal lacked "incision and creativity," with [Sánchez](#) often isolated as a lone forward without adequate support.<sup>[39]</sup> Following the international break, Arsenal played [Tottenham Hotspur](#) in the [North London Derby](#) at the Emirates Stadium. The



Aubameyang scored during his debut against Everton where Arsenal won 5–1 at the Emirates Stadium.

"Gunners" won 2–0 with goals from Mustafi and Sánchez in what was a "perfect performance" according to [Alan Shearer](#) when speaking on *Match of the Day*.<sup>[40]</sup> Arsenal followed up this performance with a win against [Burnley](#) at [Turf Moor](#), and a comprehensive 5–0 win over [Huddersfield Town](#) at the Emirates.<sup>[28]</sup>

Arsenal suffered a 3–1 defeat to Manchester United at the Emirates Stadium. [Antonio Valencia](#) capitalised on an early mistake to put the visitors ahead, and [Jesse Lingard](#) quickly doubled their lead. [Lacazette](#) managed to pull one back for Arsenal in the second half, but [Lingard](#) struck again to seal the victory for United. [David de Gea](#) delivered a world-class performance, making 14 saves to equal a Premier League record and denying Arsenal multiple chances to get back into the game.<sup>[41]</sup> Following draws against [Southampton](#) and [West Ham United](#),<sup>[28]</sup> Arsenal slipped to seventh on the table, marking their first winless streak of three league matches since April.<sup>[42]</sup> [Newcastle United](#) traveled to the Emirates on 16 December and were narrowly defeated 1–0. [Özil](#)'s well-placed volley was the decisive goal, making the difference between the two sides.<sup>[43]</sup> Arsenal hosted [Jürgen Klopp](#)'s Liverpool in a thrilling 3–3 draw. [Philippe Coutinho](#) opened the scoring with a header from [Mohamed Salah](#)'s chipped pass, and the Egyptian doubled Liverpool's

lead early in the second half. Arsenal quickly responded with a Sánchez header and a powerful long-range strike from [Xhaka](#) to level the match. [Özil](#) then combined with [Lacazette](#) to give Arsenal the lead just two minutes after equalising. However, [Roberto Firmino](#) took advantage of Arsenal's disorganised defence to secure a point for the visitors.<sup>[44]</sup>

On 28 December the Gunners were away to [Crystal Palace](#) in the league and earned a hard-fought 3–2 win with [Shkodran Mustafi](#) scoring the opener and Sánchez scoring a brace. Arsenal's final match of 2017 was in the Premier League at West Brom. Baggies midfielder [James McClean](#) deflected Sánchez's free kick into his own net to give the Gunners a 1–0 lead on 83 minutes but then Arsenal conceded an 89th-minute penalty which was controversially and wrongly given by referee [Mike Dean](#) as the match concluded as a 1–1 draw. 2017 ended in disappointment for the Gunners.

The Gunners' first match of the year saw them play at home to [Chelsea](#) in the league. The match yielded no goals during the first half but the deadlock was broken by Arsenal 27 minutes before the end. [Jack Wilshere](#) put the Gunners into the lead but it lasted only four minutes and Chelsea turned the game round: [Eden Hazard](#) scored a penalty and on 84 minutes [Marcos Alonso](#) made it 2–1 to Chelsea. It seemed that it was determined for Chelsea to go on and win the match but then in the second minute of stoppage time Arsenal grabbed a late equalizer through [Héctor Bellerín](#). In the dying moments Chelsea nearly bagged a winning goal but [Davide Zappacosta](#) hit the woodwork. The match ended 2–2.

On 14 January Arsenal resumed the Premier League campaign at [Bournemouth](#). [Bellerín](#) gave the Gunners the lead on 52 minutes but Bournemouth went on to win 2–1: a mistake by [Petr Čech](#) enabled former Liverpool player [Jordon Ibe](#) to equalize in the 70th minute and only four minutes later [Callum Wilson](#) struck the winner. On 20 January the Gunners played the next Premier League match at home to [Crystal Palace](#) and won 4–1 with first half goals by [Nacho Monreal](#), [Alex Iwobi](#), [Laurent Koscielny](#) and [Alexandre Lacazette](#). On 30 January Arsenal's optimism and enthusiasm were dampened suffering a shock 3–1 defeat at [Swansea City](#) in the Premier League – a match which involved a second mistake by Petr Čech of the month. The Czech goalkeeper had failed to keep a clean sheet in seven league matches and was aiming to earn his 200th in the Premier League. On 3 February the Gunners played in the Premier League at home to [Everton](#) — a match where Arsenal handed home debuts and first starts for January signings [Henrikh Mkhitaryan](#) and [Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang](#), both of whom played together previously for Borussia Dortmund. Arsenal won the match 5–1 with Mkhitaryan bagging three assists, [Aaron Ramsey](#) scoring a hat-trick and Aubameyang scoring one. It felt like a new beginning for Arsenal with those new signings — and [Mesut Özil](#)'s new contract — but it never seemed to be different on 9 February: the Gunners faced [Tottenham](#) at [Wembley](#) in a Premier League North London derby and lost 1–0 thanks to a goal by [Harry Kane](#).

## March–May

On 1 March Arsenal resumed the Premier League campaign by playing at home to Manchester City. The Gunners failed to avenge the League Cup final defeat and they were beaten 3–0 with first half goals by [Bernardo Silva](#), [David Silva](#) and [Leroy Sané](#) while Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang missed a penalty in the second half. This Arsenal defeat would send City nearer to title triumph and would only inflict more misery on the Gunners and Arsène Wenger. It only got worse for them on 4 March where the Gunners lost 2–1 at [Brighton](#) in the Premier League further increasing the pressure on Wenger. Arsenal's next league encounter was on 1 April, at home to a struggling Stoke City side seemingly bound for relegation. It took Arsenal 75 minutes to break the deadlock, achieved via Pierre–Emerick Aubameyang's penalty, before his terrific volley made it 2–0 in Arsenal's favor with four minutes remaining. Aubameyang then had the chance to complete his hat-trick with another spot-kick awarded at the death, but Aubameyang permitted [Alexandre Lacazette](#) to take, and he duly did as Arsenal ultimately won 3–0. In their fifth successive home match in all competitions, Arsenal secured a dramatic 3–2 home win over Southampton. After Irishman [Shane Long](#) put the Saints ahead, goals from Aubameyang



Arsenal players pictured during their final match of the league season

and Welbeck made it 2–1 to the hosts. However, Charlie Austin's equalizer tied up a grand finale, decided via Welbeck's second of the evening on 81 minutes. With the pressure mounting, Arsène Wenger's departure as Arsenal boss was announced, so ending a 22-year, trophy-laden association with the club. He would take charge for the remainder of the season prior to the announcement of the new boss. Against West Ham next time, Monreal had his 52nd-minute strike cancelled out by Marko Arnautović, before Ramsey restores Arsenal's lead late on. A brace later from Lacazette saw Arsenal ultimately secure a 4–1 win and duly keep alive their top four hopes. Things worsened next time out, as, despite Henrikh Mkhitaryan scoring on his return to Old Trafford, goals in either half from Paul Pogba and Marouane Fellaini saw Manchester United earn a 2–1 victory over the struggling Gunners.

## Match details

### Key

- In the result column, Arsenal's score is shown first
- H = Home match
- A = Away match
- pen. = Penalty kick
- o.g. = Own goal

### Results<sup>[28]</sup>

Date	Opponents	Result	Goalscorers	Attendance
11 August 2017	<a href="#">Leicester City</a> (H)	4–3	<a href="#">Lacazette</a> , <a href="#">Welbeck</a> , <a href="#">Ramsey</a> , <a href="#">Giroud</a>	59,387
19 August 2017	<a href="#">Stoke City</a> (A)	0–1		29,459
27 August 2017	<a href="#">Liverpool</a> (A)	0–4		53,206
9 September 2017	<a href="#">Bournemouth</a> (H)	3–0	<a href="#">Welbeck</a> (2), <a href="#">Lacazette</a>	59,262
17 September 2017	<a href="#">Chelsea</a> (A)	0–0		41,478
25 September 2017	<a href="#">West Bromwich Albion</a> (H)	2–0	<a href="#">Lacazette</a> (2)	59,134
1 October 2017	<a href="#">Brighton &amp; Hove Albion</a> (H)	2–0	<a href="#">Monreal</a> , <a href="#">Iwobi</a>	59,378
14 October 2017	<a href="#">Watford</a> (A)	1–2	<a href="#">Mertesacker</a>	20,384
22 October 2017	<a href="#">Everton</a> (A)	5–2	<a href="#">Monreal</a> , <a href="#">Özil</a> , <a href="#">Lacazette</a> , <a href="#">Ramsey</a> , <a href="#">Sánchez</a>	39,189
28 October 2017	<a href="#">Swansea City</a> (H)	2–1	<a href="#">Kolašinac</a> , <a href="#">Ramsey</a>	59,493
5 November 2017	<a href="#">Manchester City</a> (A)	1–3	<a href="#">Lacazette</a>	54,286
18 November 2017	<a href="#">Tottenham Hotspur</a> (H)	2–0	<a href="#">Mustafi</a> , <a href="#">Sánchez</a>	59,530
26 November 2017	<a href="#">Burnley</a> (A)	1–0	<a href="#">Sánchez</a> (pen.)	21,722
29 November 2017	<a href="#">Huddersfield Town</a> (H)	5–0	<a href="#">Lacazette</a> , <a href="#">Giroud</a> (2), <a href="#">Sánchez</a> , <a href="#">Özil</a>	59,285
2 December 2017	<a href="#">Manchester United</a> (H)	1–3	<a href="#">Lacazette</a>	59,547
10 December 2017	<a href="#">Southampton</a> (A)	1–1	<a href="#">Giroud</a>	31,643
13 December 2017	<a href="#">West Ham United</a> (A)	0–0		56,921
16 December 2017	<a href="#">Newcastle United</a> (H)	1–0	<a href="#">Özil</a>	59,379
22 December 2017	<a href="#">Liverpool</a> (H)	3–3	<a href="#">Sánchez</a> , <a href="#">Xhaka</a> , <a href="#">Özil</a>	59,409
28 December 2017	<a href="#">Crystal Palace</a> (A)	3–2	<a href="#">Mustafi</a> , <a href="#">Sánchez</a> (2)	25,762
31 December 2017	<a href="#">West Bromwich Albion</a> (A)	1–1	<a href="#">McClellan</a> (o.g.)	26,223
3 January 2018	<a href="#">Chelsea</a> (H)	2–2	<a href="#">Wilshere</a> , <a href="#">Bellerín</a>	59,379
14 January 2018	<a href="#">Bournemouth</a> (A)	1–2	<a href="#">Bellerín</a>	10,836
20 January 2018	<a href="#">Crystal Palace</a> (H)	4–1	<a href="#">Monreal</a> , <a href="#">Iwobi</a> , <a href="#">Koscielny</a> , <a href="#">Lacazette</a>	59,386
30 January 2018	<a href="#">Swansea City</a> (A)	1–3	<a href="#">Monreal</a>	20,819
3 February 2018	<a href="#">Everton</a> (H)	5–1	<a href="#">Ramsey</a> (3), <a href="#">Koscielny</a> , <a href="#">Aubameyang</a>	59,306
10 February 2018	<a href="#">Tottenham Hotspur</a> (A)	0–1		83,222
1 March 2018	<a href="#">Manchester City</a> (H)	0–3		58,420
4 March 2018	<a href="#">Brighton &amp; Hove Albion</a> (A)	1–2	<a href="#">Aubameyang</a>	30,620
11 March 2018	<a href="#">Watford</a> (H)	3–0	<a href="#">Mustafi</a> , <a href="#">Aubameyang</a> , <a href="#">Mkhitaryan</a>	59,131
1 April 2018	<a href="#">Stoke City</a> (H)	3–0	<a href="#">Aubameyang</a> (2, 1 pen.), <a href="#">Lacazette</a> (pen.)	59,371
8 April 2018	<a href="#">Southampton</a> (H)	3–2	<a href="#">Aubameyang</a> , <a href="#">Welbeck</a> (2)	59,374
15 April 2018	<a href="#">Newcastle United</a> (A)	1–2	<a href="#">Lacazette</a>	52,210
22 April 2018	<a href="#">West Ham United</a> (H)	4–1	<a href="#">Monreal</a> , <a href="#">Ramsey</a> , <a href="#">Lacazette</a> (2)	59,422
29 April 2018	<a href="#">Manchester United</a> (A)	1–2	<a href="#">Mkhitaryan</a>	75,035
6 May 2018	<a href="#">Burnley</a> (H)	5–0	<a href="#">Aubameyang</a> (2), <a href="#">Lacazette</a> , <a href="#">Kolašinac</a> , <a href="#">Iwobi</a>	59,540
9 May 2018	<a href="#">Leicester City</a> (A)	1–3	<a href="#">Aubameyang</a>	32,095
13 May 2018	<a href="#">Huddersfield Town</a> (A)	1–0	<a href="#">Aubameyang</a>	24,122

## League table

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	Qualification or relegation
4	<a href="#">Liverpool</a>	38	21	12	5	84	38	+46	<b>75</b>	Qualification for the <a href="#">Champions League</a> group stage
5	<a href="#">Chelsea</a>	38	21	7	10	62	38	+24	<b>70</b>	Qualification for the <a href="#">Europa League</a> group stage <sup>[a]</sup>
6	<b>Arsenal</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>+23</b>	<b>63</b>	
7	<a href="#">Burnley</a>	38	14	12	12	36	39	−3	<b>54</b>	Qualification for the <a href="#">Europa League</a> second qualifying round <sup>[a]</sup>
8	<a href="#">Everton</a>	38	13	10	15	44	58	−14	<b>49</b>	

Source: Premier League (<https://www.premierleague.com/tables?co=1&se=79&ha=-1>)

Rules for classification: 1) Points; 2) Goal difference; 3) Goals scored. 4) Play-offs (only if needed to decide champion, teams for relegation or teams for UEFA competitions).<sup>[45]</sup>

Notes:

- a. Since the winners of the 2017–18 FA Cup (Chelsea) and the winners of the 2017–18 EFL Cup (Manchester City) both qualified for European competition based on their league positions, the berths awarded to the 5th-placed team (Europa League group stage) and the League Cup winners (Europa League second qualifying round) were passed down the league.

## FA Cup

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In the FA Cup, Arsenal entered the competition in the third round and were drawn away to Nottingham Forest.<sup>[46]</sup> Arsenal were knocked out in the third round for the first time since 1996 and therefore the first time under Arsène Wenger.

### Match details

#### Key

- In the result column, Arsenal's score is shown first
- A = Away match

#### Results<sup>[28]</sup>

Date	Round	Opponents	Result	Goalscorers	Attendance
7 January 2018	Third	<u>Nottingham Forest</u> (A)	2–4	<u>Mertesacker</u> , <u>Welbeck</u>	27,182

## EFL Cup

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Arsenal entered the competition in the third round and were drawn at home to Doncaster Rovers.<sup>[47]</sup> The *Gunners* were drawn at home for the fourth round with Norwich City the confirmed visitors.<sup>[48]</sup> Arsenal were drawn against West Ham United at home for the quarter-finals.<sup>[49]</sup> Arsenal drew Chelsea in the semi-finals, with the first leg taking place at Stamford Bridge.<sup>[50]</sup>

### Match details

#### Key

- In the result column, Arsenal's score is shown first
- H = Home match
- A = Away match
- N = Wembley Stadium
- o.g. = Own goal
- a.e.t. = After extra time

#### Results<sup>[28]</sup>



Date	Round	Opponents	Result	Goalscorers	Attendance
20 September 2017	Third	<a href="#">Doncaster Rovers</a> (H)	1–0	<a href="#">Walcott</a>	44,064
24 October 2017	Fourth	<a href="#">Norwich City</a> (H)	2–1 (a.e.t.)	<a href="#">Nketiah</a> (2)	58,444
19 December 2017	Quater-final	<a href="#">West Ham United</a> (H)	1–0	<a href="#">Welbeck</a>	44,741
10 January 2018	Semi-final (first leg)	<a href="#">Chelsea</a> (A)	0–0		40,097
24 January 2018	Semi-final (second leg)	<a href="#">Chelsea</a> (H)	2–1	<a href="#">Rüdiger</a> (o.g.), <a href="#">Xhaka</a>	58,964
25 February 2018	Final	<a href="#">Manchester City</a> (N)	<u>0–3</u>		85,671

## UEFA Europa League

### Group stage



On 25 August 2017, the group stages were announced with Arsenal drawn out in Group H alongside [BATE Borisov](#), [1.FC Köln](#) and [Red Star Belgrade](#).<sup>[51]</sup>

### Match details




#### Key

- In the result column, Arsenal's score is shown first
- H = Home match
- A = Away match
- pen. = Penalty kick
- o.g. = Own goal

### Results<sup>[28]</sup>

Date	Opponents	Result	Goalscorers	Attendance
14 September 2017	 <a href="#">1. FC Köln</a> (H)	3–1	<a href="#">Kolašinac</a> , <a href="#">Sánchez</a> , <a href="#">Bellerín</a>	59,359
28 September 2017	 <a href="#">BATE Borisov</a> (A)	4–2	<a href="#">Walcott</a> (2), <a href="#">Holding</a> , <a href="#">Giroud</a> (pen.)	13,100
19 October 2017	 <a href="#">Red Star Belgrade</a> (A)	1–0	<a href="#">Giroud</a>	50,327
2 November 2017	 <a href="#">Red Star Belgrade</a> (H)	0–0		58,285
13 November 2017	 <a href="#">1. FC Köln</a> (A)	0–1		45,300
7 December 2017	 <a href="#">BATE Borisov</a> (H)	6–0	<a href="#">Debuchy</a> , <a href="#">Walcott</a> , <a href="#">Wilshere</a> , <a href="#">Palyakow</a> (o.g.), <a href="#">Giroud</a> (pen.), <a href="#">Elneny</a>	25,909

### Group stage table

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	Qualification		ARS	ZVE	KLN	BATE
1	 <a href="#">Arsenal</a>	6	4	1	1	14	4	+10	13	Advance to knockout phase		—	<u>0–0</u>	<u>3–1</u>	<u>6–0</u>
2	 <a href="#">Red Star Belgrade</a>	6	2	3	1	3	2	+1	9			<u>0–1</u>	—	<u>1–0</u>	<u>1–1</u>
3	 <a href="#">1. FC Köln</a>	6	2	0	4	7	8	–1	6			<u>1–0</u>	<u>0–1</u>	—	<u>5–2</u>
4	 <a href="#">BATE Borisov</a>	6	1	2	3	6	16	–10	5			<u>2–4</u>	<u>0–0</u>	<u>1–0</u>	—

Source: UEFA (<http://www.uefa.com/uefaeuropaleague/season=2018/standings/round=2000890/index.html#grp-2005627>)

Rules for classification: [Group stage tiebreakers](#)

### Knockout phase

### Match details

#### Key



- In the result column, Arsenal's score is shown first
- H = Home match
- A = Away match
- pen. = Penalty kick
- o.g. = Own goal

## Results<sup>[28]</sup>

Date	Round	Opponents	Result	Goalscorers	Attendance
15 February 2018	Round of 32 (first leg)	 Östersund (A)	3–0	Monreal, Papagiannopoulos (o.g.), Özil	7,665
22 February 2018	Round of 32 (second leg)	 Östersund (H)	1–2	Kolašinac	58,405
8 March 2018	Round of 16 (first leg)	 Milan (A)	2–0	Mkhitaryan, Ramsey	72,821
15 March 2018	Round of 16 (second leg)	 Milan (H)	3–1	Welbeck (2, 1 pen.), Xhaka	58,973
5 April 2018	Quarter-final (first leg)	 CSKA Moscow (H)	4–1	Ramsey (2), Lacazette (2, 1 pen.)	58,285
12 April 2018	Quarter-final (second leg)	 CSKA Moscow (A)	2–2	Welbeck, Ramsey	29,284
26 April 2018	Semi-final (first leg)	 Atlético Madrid (H)	1–1	Lacazette	59,066
3 May 2018	Semi-final (second leg)	 Atlético Madrid (A)	0–1		64,196

## Aftermath

The Player of the Season was awarded to Aaron Ramsey.<sup>[52]</sup>

## Squad statistics

### Key

**Pos.** = Playing position<sup>[53]</sup>

**No.** = Squad number

**Nat.** = Nationality

**Apps** = Appearances

**GK** = Goalkeeper

**DF** = Defender



**MF** = Midfielder

**FW** = Forward

 = Yellow cards

 = Red cards

*Numbers in parentheses denote appearances as substitute. Players with number struck through and marked † left the club during the playing season.*

No.	Pos.	Name	Premier League		FA Cup		EFL Cup		Europa League		Community Shield		Total		Discipline	
			Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals		
2	DF	<u>Mathieu Debuchy</u> †	0	0	1	0	2	0	4	1	0	0	7	1	2	0
4	DF	<u>Per Mertesacker</u>	4 (2)	1	1	1	1	0	3	0	1	0	10 (2)	2	1	0
6	DF	<u>Laurent Koscielny</u>	25	2	0	0	2	0	6	0	0	0	33	2	4	0
7 <sup>[A]</sup>	MF	<u>Henrikh Mkhitaryan</u>	9 (2)	2	0	0	0	0	5 (1)	1	0	0	14 (3)	3	1	0
	MF	<u>Alexis Sánchez</u> †	17 (2)	7	0	0	1 (1)	0	1	1	0	0	19 (3)	8	4	0
8	MF	<u>Aaron Ramsey</u>	21 (3)	7	0	0	1 (1)	0	6	4	0	0	28 (4)	11	2	0
9	FW	<u>Alexandre Lacazette</u>	26 (6)	14	0	0	2	0	4	3	1	0	33 (6)	17	1	0
10	MF	<u>Jack Wilshere</u>	12 (8)	1	0	0	5	0	12 (1)	1	0	0	29 (9)	2	10	0
11	MF	<u>Mesut Özil</u>	24 (2)	4	0	0	2	0	7	1	0	0	33 (2)	5	4	0
12	FW	<u>Olivier Giroud</u> †	1 (15)	4	0	0	3	0	6	3	0 (1)	0	10 (16)	7	0	0
13	GK	<u>David Ospina</u>	4 (1)	0	1	0	5	0	10	0	0	0	20 (1)	0	1	0
14	FW	<u>Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang</u>	12 (1)	10	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	13 (1)	10	0	0
	FW	<u>Theo Walcott</u> †	0 (6)	0	1	0	3	1	5	3	0 (1)	0	9 (7)	4	0	0
15	MF	<u>Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain</u> †	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	0
16	DF	<u>Rob Holding</u>	9 (3)	0	1	0	4	0	7 (1)	1	1	0	22 (4)	1	4	0
17	FW	<u>Alex Iwobi</u>	22 (4)	3	1	0	3 (2)	0	3 (3)	0	1	0	30 (9)	3	1	0
18	DF	<u>Nacho Monreal</u>	26 (2)	5	0	0	2	0	7	1	1	0	36 (2)	5	6	0
20	DF	<u>Shkodran Mustafi</u>	25 (2)	3	0	0	3	0	8	0	0	0	36 (2)	3	7	0
21	DF	<u>Calum Chambers</u>	10 (2)	0	0	0	4	0	5 (3)	0	0	0	19 (5)	0	2	0
23	FW	<u>Danny Welbeck</u>	12 (16)	5	1	1	2 (1)	1	9 (1)	3	1	0	25 (18)	10	2	0
24	DF	<u>Héctor Bellerín</u>	34 (1)	2	0	0	3	0	8	1	1	0	46 (1)	3	8	0
27	DF	<u>Konstantinos Mavropanos</u>	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1
29	MF	<u>Granit Xhaka</u>	37 (1)	1	0	0	3	1	5 (1)	1	1	0	46 (2)	3	12	0
30	MF	<u>Ainsley Maitland-Niles</u>	8 (7)	0	1	0	3	0	8 (1)	0	0	0	20 (8)	0	2	0
31	DF	<u>Sead Kolašinac</u>	25 (2)	2	0	0	1 (2)	0	2 (3)	2	0 (1)	1	29 (9)	5	4	0
32	FW	<u>Chuba Akpom</u> †	0	0	0 (1)	0	0 (1)	0	0	0	0	0	0 (2)	0	1	0
33	GK	<u>Petr Čech</u>	34	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	39	0	1	0
34	MF	<u>Francis Coquelin</u> †	1 (6)	0	0	0	2	0	4	0	0	0	7 (6)	0	2	0

35	MF	<u>Mohamed Elneny</u>	11 (2)	0	1	0	4 (1)	0	9 (3)	1	1	0	26 (6)	1	5	0
43	MF	<u>Josh Dasilva</u>	0	0	0	0	0 (3)	0	0	0	0	0	0 (3)	0	0	0
54	GK	<u>Matt Macey</u>	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
58	MF	<u>Marcus McGuane</u> †	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 (2)	0	0	0	0 (2)	0	0	0
61	FW	<u>Reiss Nelson</u>	2 (1)	0	1	0	2 (1)	0	3 (5)	0	0 (1)	0	8 (8)	0	1	0
62	FW	<u>Eddie Nketiah</u>	0 (3)	0	0 (1)	0	0 (1)	2	0 (5)	0	0	0	0 (10)	2	0	0
65	MF	<u>Ben Sheaf</u> †	0	0	0	0	0 (1)	0	0 (1)	0	0	0	0 (2)	0	0	0
69	MF	<u>Joe Willock</u>	1 (1)	0	1	0	1 (2)	0	3 (2)	0	0	0	6 (5)	0	0	0
—		<i>Own goals</i>	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	4	—	—

Sources: <sup>[55]</sup><sup>[56]</sup>

Transfers

For consistency, transfer fees in the tables below are all exclusively sourced from BBC Sport's contemporary report of each transfer. Where the report mentions an initial fee potentially rising to a higher figure depending on contractual clauses being satisfied in the future, only the initial fee is listed in the tables. Arsenal did not sign any players on loan during the season and players who have not made an appearance for the first-team are not included in the tables below. Squad numbers are only listed for players who featured during the season.

Key

**GK** = Goalkeeper

**DF** = Defender

**MF** = Midfielder

**FW** = Forward

**Pos.** = Playing position<sup>[53]</sup>

**No.** = Squad number

Transfers in						
No.	Pos.	Player	Previous club	Fee	Date	Ref.
31	DF	<u>Sead Kolašinac</u>	 <u>Schalke 04</u>	<u>Free transfer</u>	1 July 2017 <sup>[B]</sup>	<sup>[6]</sup>
9	FW	<u>Alexandre Lacazette</u>	 <u>Lyon</u>	£46.5m <sup>[C]</sup>	5 July 2017	<sup>[2]</sup>
27	DF	<u>Konstantinos Mavropanos</u>	 <u>PAS Giannina</u>	Undisclosed	4 January 2018	<sup>[10]</sup>
7	MF	<u>Henrikh Mkhitaryan</u>	 <u>Manchester United</u>	Swap deal <sup>[D]</sup>	21 January 2018	<sup>[57]</sup>
14	FW	<u>Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang</u>	 <u>Borussia Dortmund</u>	£56m	31 January 2018	<sup>[13]</sup>

## Transfers out

No.	Pos.	Player	Following club	Fee	Date	Ref.
—	MF	<a href="#">Chris Willock</a>	<a href="#">Benfica</a>	Released	30 June 2017 <sup>[E]</sup>	<sup>[58]</sup>
—	DF	<a href="#">Stefan O'Connor</a>	<a href="#">Newcastle United</a>	Released	30 June 2017 <sup>[F]</sup>	<sup>[60]</sup>
—	FW	<a href="#">Yaya Sanogo</a>	<a href="#">Toulouse</a>	Released	30 June 2017 <sup>[G]</sup>	
—	MF	<a href="#">Glen Kamara</a>	<a href="#">Dundee</a>	Released	30 June 2017 <sup>[H]</sup>	<sup>[62]</sup>
—	GK	<a href="#">Wojciech Szczęsny</a>	<a href="#">Juventus</a>	£10m	19 July 2017	<sup>[7]</sup>
—	DF	<a href="#">Gabriel Paulista</a>	<a href="#">Valencia</a>	Undisclosed	18 August 2017	<sup>[63]</sup>
—	MF	<a href="#">Ismaël Bennacer</a>	<a href="#">Empoli</a>	Undisclosed	21 August 2017	<sup>[64]</sup>
—	DF	<a href="#">Kieran Gibbs</a>	<a href="#">West Bromwich Albion</a>	£5m	29 August 2017	<sup>[8]</sup>
15	MF	<a href="#">Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain</a>	<a href="#">Liverpool</a>	£35m	31 August 2017	<sup>[9]</sup>
34	DF	<a href="#">Francis Coquelin</a>	<a href="#">Valencia</a>	£12m	11 January 2018	<sup>[65]</sup>
14	FW	<a href="#">Theo Walcott</a>	<a href="#">Everton</a>	£20m	17 January 2018	<sup>[14]</sup>
7	MF	<a href="#">Alexis Sánchez</a>	<a href="#">Manchester United</a>	Swap deal <sup>[D]</sup>	21 January 2018	<sup>[57]</sup>
58	MF	<a href="#">Marcus McGuane</a>	<a href="#">Barcelona</a>	Undisclosed	30 January 2018	<sup>[66]</sup>
2	DF	<a href="#">Mathieu Debuchy</a>	<a href="#">Saint-Étienne</a>	Released	31 January 2018 <sup>[I]</sup>	<sup>[15]</sup>
12	FW	<a href="#">Olivier Giroud</a>	<a href="#">Chelsea</a>	£18m	31 January 2018	<sup>[16]</sup>

## Loans out

No.	Pos.	Player	Loaned to	Date	Loan expired	Ref.
—	GK	<u>Emiliano Martínez</u>	<span><span><span></span></span></span> <u>Getafe</u>	2 August 2017	30 June 2018	[67]
—	DF	<u>Carl Jenkinson</u>	<span><span><span></span></span></span> <u>Birmingham City</u>	21 August 2017		[68]
—	FW	<u>Lucas Pérez</u>	<span><span><span></span></span></span> <u>Deportivo La Coruña</u>	31 August 2017		[69]
—	FW	<u>Joel Campbell</u>	<span><span><span></span></span></span> <u>Real Betis</u>			[70]
65	MF	<u>Ben Sheaf</u>	<span><span><span></span></span></span> <u>Stevenage</u>	26 January 2018		[71]
—	DF	<u>Krystian Bielik</u>	<span><span><span></span></span></span> <u>Walsall</u>	31 January 2018		[72]
—	MF	<u>Jeff Reine-Adélaïde</u>	<span><span><span></span></span></span> <u>Angers</u>			[73]
32	FW	<u>Chuba Akpom</u>	<span><span><span></span></span></span> <u>Sint-Truidense</u>			[74]

## Notes

- A. Mkhitarian could not wear number 7 in the UEFA Europa League as Sánchez previously wore the number in the competition. He instead wore the number 77.<sup>[54]</sup>
- B. Kolašinac's pre-contract agreement was announced on 6 June 2017, before the season started<sup>[6]</sup>
- C. Lacazette's transfer also included £6.1 million in additional bonuses<sup>[2]</sup>
- D. Mkhitarian joined Arsenal in exchange for Sánchez, who joined Manchester United<sup>[57]</sup>
- E. C.Willock later joined Benfica on 30 June 2017 as a free agent<sup>[58]</sup>
- F. O'Connor later joined Newcastle United on 6 July 2017 as a free agent<sup>[59]</sup>
- G. Sanogo later joined Toulouse on 9 July 2017 as a free agent<sup>[61]</sup>
- H. Kamara later joined Dundee United on 13 July 2017 as a free agent<sup>[62]</sup>
- I. Debuchy later joined Saint-Etienne on 31 January 2018 as a free agent after Arsenal terminated his contract<sup>[15]</sup>

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