

Using newly calculated metrics, we developed an approach to estimate each NHL player’s fair salary based on comparables

We clustered all regular NHL skaters based on net contribution (difference between expected goals contributed to vs given), offensive output, physicality, position and age to identify groups of “comparable players” and observe mean salaries within each cluster.

- Value creating offensive player
- Value creating all around player
- Value destroying player

Clustering dimensions					Within sample means			Fair salary	Notable players		
Net contribution	Offensive skills	Physicality	Position	Career stage	Net contribution per 60 mins	Goals cont. per 60 mins (scaled)	Total hits (scaled)	Within cluster salary mean, \$M 2019	Player 1	Player 2	Player 3
Positive net contribution	Offensive threat	Physical	Forward	Veteran				5.7	Alex Ovechkin	Steven Stamkos	Blake Wheeler
				Young				3.1	Andrei Svechnikov	Matthew Tkachuk	Tom Wilson
			D-man	Veteran				6.4	Brent Burns	Victor Hedman	Drew Doughty
				Young				3.0	Thomas Chabot	Mikhail Sergachev	Charlie McAvoy
		Non-physical	Forward	Veteran				5.7	Sidney Crosby	Patrick Kane	Anze Kopitar
				Young				4.2	Sebastian Aho	Aleksander Barkov	Connor McDavid
			D-man	Veteran				5.3	Mark Giordano	Roman Josi	Alex Pietrangelo
				Young				2.6	Aaron Ekblad	Quinn Hughes	Seth Jones
	All-rounder	Physical	Forward	Young				0.7	Anthony Cirelli		
				Veteran				3.5	Alexander Edler	Alex Goligoski	Eric Johnson
			D-man	Young				3.0	Darnell Nurse	Colton Parayko	Rasmus Ristolainen
		Non-physical	Forward	Veteran				5.8	Tyler Bozak	Derek Stepan	Travis Zajac
				Young				2.6	Connor Brown	J.T. Compher	Andrew Copp
			D-man	Veteran				3.4	TJ Brodie	Mattias Ekholm	Ryan McDonagh
				Young				2.4	Hampus Lindholm	Brandon Montour	Brett Pesce
Negative net contribution	Offensive threat	Physical	Forward	Veteran				2.9	Yanni Gourde	Milan Lucic	Ryan Reeves
				Young				1.1	Sam Bennett	Martin Necas	Jake Virtanen
			Forward	Veteran				3.7	Artem Anisimov	Bobby Ryan	Seth Zucker
				Young				1.2	Conor Garland	Jesperi Kotkaniemi	Alex Nylander
		Non-physical	D-man	Veteran				0.8	Taylor Fedun	Tim Heed	
				Young				0.9	Noah Dobson	Rasmus Sandin	
		Physical	Forward	Veteran				1.9	Andrew Cogliano	Vladislav Namestikov	Brandon Tanev
				Young				1.3	Kasperii Kapanen	Scott Laughton	Brendan Lemieux
	All-rounder	Physical	D-man	Veteran				2.2	Zdeno Chara	Radko Gudas	Marc Staal
				Young				1.4	Brandon Carlo	Joel Edmundson	Jake McCabe
		Non-physical	Forward	Veteran				2.4	David Backes	Valteri Filppula	Carl Hagelin
				Young				1.1	Kirby Dach	Alex Galchenyuk	Jimmy Vesey
			D-man	Veteran				2.3	Jay Bouwmeester	Niklas Hjalmarsson	Brent Seabrook
				Young				1.2	Jonas Brodin	Victor Mete	Ryan Murray