A graph of a graph of a game

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

The graph above shows the change in league-wide ERA through the years and the difference between the leagues. The difference between the is shown on the green line and you can see the clear increase in the difference between ERA after the designated hitter rule was added to the AL in 1973. It then can be seen dipping back down closer to 0 in the late 2010s when the NL also adopted the designated hitter rule.

A graph with lines and numbers

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The difference in the change for slugging percentage is less obvious than ERA. Nonetheless, the difference is still there; After the introduction of the DH rule in 1973, there was much less fluctuation in the average slugging percentage for hitters throughout both leagues. The spike seen before is an outlier where there were a couple hitters that were disproportionately good in the AL. Overall, slugging percentage became much more consistent after designated hitters were introduced.