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Should NHL player Salaries Be Lowered?

With the NHL in the midst of a lockout, player salaries are a hot topic. Although they are not nearly as high as some of the other professional sports leagues, the players get paid far too much. Last season, 18 of the 30 teams lost money compared to 16 the year before[[1]](#footnote-1). This is because of an 11% increase in player salaries over that year[[2]](#footnote-2). It is only fair that the owners get a bigger cut of the total revenue considering how much they have invested in the league. The NHL today is not like football where both the owners and players are making money. It is only fair that in the new CBA agreement, the owners get enough of the total revenue so that none of the franchises are losing money.

The average salary in the NHL is 2.4 million dollars[[3]](#footnote-3). This is less than half of the average NBA player salary at 5.15 million dollars[[4]](#footnote-4). The NHL has forever been behind the other three major professional sports leagues. It is lucrative to lower them even more. It is true that they make a great deal compared to the average American, but the players do work for their money. If one counted the hours an average NHL player has put into their trade since they were born then their dollar an hour wage would not be so much different. They put in the same work that the NBA player did, but the hockey player is still making less than half the salary. Although many teams are losing money, the Toronto Maple Leafs made 81.8 million dollars last season[[5]](#footnote-5). If the NHL owners want to help the teams losing money then they should better redistribute the money amongst the owners rather than taking it from the players.

1. http://www.forbes.com/sites/mikeozanian/2011/11/30/the-business-of-hockey/ [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Ibid [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. http://sports.yahoo.com/nba/news?slug=ycn-10423863 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Ibid [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. http://www.forbes.com/sites/mikeozanian/2011/11/30/the-business-of-hockey/ [↑](#footnote-ref-5)