

SOCCEREX 

20

UNDER 21



primetimesport

2019



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Soccerex 20 U21 report 2019 - the fifth edition - created in partnership with Prime Time Sport, using their Football Value Index valuation methodology.

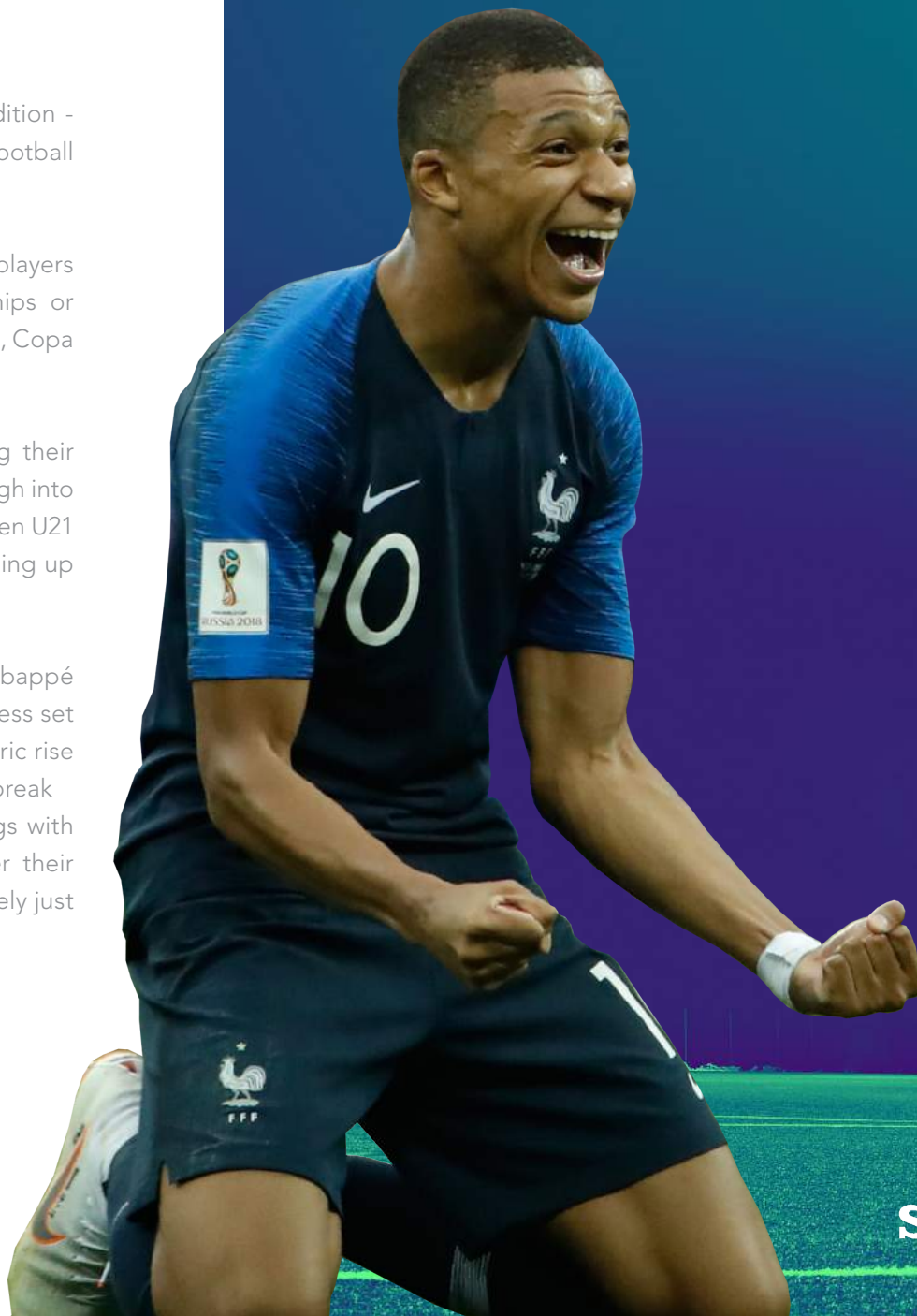
This summer has seen many of the world's top young players in action, either in the UEFA U21 European Championships or representing their National sides in the UEFA Nations League, Copa America, Gold Cup or African Cup of Nations.

Increasingly, clubs across Europe's big leagues are putting their faith in youth, with many of our top 20 making the breakthrough into their club's first teams in the past 12 months. We have also seen U21 talent like Matthijs de Ligt and Trent Alexander-Arnold lighting up the later stages of the UEFA Champions League.

We finished last year's report speculating whether Kylian Mbappé might become Real Madrid's next Galactico and in the process set a transfer record... Well, Mbappé stayed put, but his meteoric rise has continued at PSG and he has become the first player to break the €200m barrier in our report, topping this year's rankings with a value of €261.6m. As Messi and Ronaldo's careers enter their twilight, the era of Mbappé as the world's biggest star is surely just around the corner.

ESTEVE CALZADA

Football Agent & CEO, Prime Time Sport



FOOTBALL VALUE INDEX

The Football Value Index by Prime Time Sport is a best-in-class player valuation methodology, used by football clubs and the sport industry, to obtain an independent and accurate valuation of football players. Clubs need to know the real value of their main asset, the squad. The accounting value may differ significantly from this, so there are many situations when football clubs need the most accurate valuation of players or squads.

We hope that this product helps the football industry to be more efficient. The main usages are in transfers (to help in the decision process and in negotiations), in M&A processes, in equity (when a significant difference between the accounting value vs the real value can affect the equity position of the club), to make a rational value allocation for insurance, to provide real and relevant information to investors, and to set guarantees in loans and other financial products.



PRINCIPLES

AT-PRESENT PRINCIPLE

The player valuation is made bearing in mind both personal attributes and pitch performance, using player's current personal information and the performances of both the current season and the previous one.

RELIABILITY PRINCIPLE

Objective and contrasted sources are used for the performance of this report; the Football Transfer Review report by Prime Time Sport, FIFA stats and other sources.

INDEPENDENCY PRINCIPLE

Due to an internal methodology and the sources used in the project, independent results and objective valuation are guaranteed.

SCOPE

Players born on or after January 1st 1998.

METHODOLOGY

FOR EACH PLAYER, WE RESEARCHED

CURRENT CLUB AVERAGE PLAYER SALE VALUE

The origin club affects the player value.

CURRENT CLUB “STANDARD” PLAYER ANALYSIS

Analysis of the current club’s “standard” player sold in the last 5 years provides data to adjust weights for the PTS Rating Index.

COMPARABLE CLUBS AVERAGE SELLING PLAYER VALUE

Calculation of average value of the last 5 years transfers performed by comparable clubs.

MARKET VALUE PERCEPTION

Popular transfer sites and press information can affect the player’s value, and have to be considered.

POSITION ON THE PITCH OF EACH PLAYER

The average transfer paid (excluding temporary sessions and free transfers for ending contracts) per position of ALL transfers made in the 5 major leagues (UK, SP, IT, DE, FR) in the past summer transfer window shows demand for different positions.

AGE & YEARS OUTSTANDING ON A PLAYER’S CONTRACT

PTS RATING INDEX

FOR EACH PLAYER, WE ANALYSED

NATIONAL TEAM APPEARANCES

Number of appearances for a national team is a factor that boosts value, especially if the national team is in the Top 10 of FIFA’s rankings.

MINUTES PLAYED

This aims to reflect the importance of a player and represents an objective variable to assess performance.

GOALS SCORED

An analysis of goals scored, weighted per position on the pitch.

INJURIES

The player’s value is affected by how prone they are to injury.

MEDIA VALUE

Assessed by the PTS Sports Marketing team.

TECHNICAL QUALITY

An essential factor in a player’s valuation.



20



NAME

CALLUM HUDSON-ODOI

VALUE

€31.7M

CLUB

CHELSEA FC

AGE

18

POSITION

LEFT WING

2018 RESULT

NEW ENTRY

NAME

SAMUEL CHUKWUEZE

VALUE

€32.3M

CLUB

VILLARREAL CF

AGE

20

POSITION

RIGHT WING

2018 RESULT

NEW ENTRY

19



18



NAME

RYAN SESSEGNON

VALUE

€33.8M

CLUB

FULHAM FC

AGE

19

POSITION

LEFT WING

2018 RESULT

11TH · €51.3 M

NAME

RODRYGO

VALUE

€35.3M

CLUB

REAL MADRID CF*

AGE

18

POSITION

LEFT WING

2018 RESULT

15TH · €40.0 M

***MOVED FROM SANTOS TO REAL MADRID CF
IN JULY 2019**



17

16



NAME

IBRAHIMA KONATÉ

VALUE

€36.3M

CLUB

RB LEIPZIG

AGE

20

POSITION

CENTRE BACK

2018 RESULT

NEW ENTRY

NAME

DECLAN RICE

VALUE

€39.0M

CLUB

WEST HAM UNITED

AGE

20

POSITION

CENTRE MIDFIELD

2018 RESULT

NEW ENTRY



15

14



NAME

PHIL FODEN

VALUE

€40.8M

CLUB

MANCHESTER CITY FC

AGE

19

POSITION

ATTACKING MIDFIELD

2018 RESULT

NEW ENTRY

NAME

HOUSSEM AQUAR

VALUE

€41.6M

CLUB

OLYMPIQUE LYONNAIS

AGE

21

POSITION

CENTRE MIDFIELD

2018 RESULT

18TH · €34.5 M



13

A full-page background image of a football player with long, curly brown hair, wearing a red Arsenal home jersey with white sleeves. He is celebrating with both arms raised in a fist pump, mouth open in a shout. The jersey features the 'Fly Emirates' logo. The background is a blurred football pitch under a blue sky.

12

NAME
MATTÉO GUENDOUZI

VALUE
€42.8M

CLUB
ARSENAL FC

AGE
20

POSITION
CENTRE MIDFIELD

2018 RESULT
NEW ENTRY

NAME

NICOLÒ ZANIOLO

VALUE

€45.3M

CLUB

AS ROMA

AGE

20

POSITION

ATTACKING MIDFIELD

2018 RESULT

NEW ENTRY



10



NAME

EDÉR MILITÃO

VALUE

€54.6M

CLUB

REAL MADRID CF*

AGE

21

POSITION

CENTRE BACK

2018 RESULT

NEW ENTRY

*MOVED FROM FC PORTO TO REAL MADRID CF
IN JULY 2019

NAME

CHRISTIAN PULISIC

VALUE

€57.2M

CLUB

CHELSEA FC*

AGE

20

POSITION

RIGHT WING

2018 RESULT

8TH · €61.2 M

***PLAYED FOR BORUSSIA DORTMUND IN THE
2018/19 SEASON, RETURNING ON LOAN AFTER
TRANSFERRING TO CHELSEA FC IN JANUARY 2019**



09

08



NAME

VINÍCIUS JÚNIOR

VALUE

€60.2M

CLUB

REAL MADRID CF

AGE

18

POSITION

LEFT WING

2018 RESULT

14TH · €45.1 M

NAME

GIANLUIGI DONNARUMMA

VALUE

€67.9M

CLUB

AC MILAN

AGE

20

POSITION

GOALKEEPER

2018 RESULT

7TH · €62.8 M



07

06



NAME

JOÃO FÉLIX

VALUE

€71.8M

CLUB

ATLETICO MADRID*

AGE

19

POSITION

LEFT WING

2018 RESULT

NEW ENTRY

*MOVED FROM SL BENFICA TO ATLETICO MADRID
IN JULY 2019

NAME

TRENT ALEXANDER-ARNOLD

VALUE

€73.6M

CLUB

LIVERPOOL FC

POSITION

RIGHT BACK

AGE

20

2018 RESULT

12TH · €50.7 M



05

04

NAME
KAI HAVERTZ

VALUE
€74.2M

CLUB
BAYER 04 LEVERKUSEN

AGE
20

POSITION
ATTACKING MIDFIELD

2018 RESULT
NEW ENTRY



NAME

MATTHIJS DE LIGT

VALUE

€74.5M

CLUB

AFC AJAX

AGE

19

POSITION

CENTRE BACK

2018 RESULT

13TH · €50.4 M



03

02



NAME

JADON SANCHE

VALUE

€120.3M

CLUB

BORUSSIA DORTMUND

AGE

19

POSITION

RIGHT WING

2018 RESULT

NEW ENTRY

NAME

KYLIAN MBAPPÉ

VALUE

€261.6M

CLUB

PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN FC

AGE

20

POSITION

RIGHT WING

2017 RESULT

1ST · €192.3 M



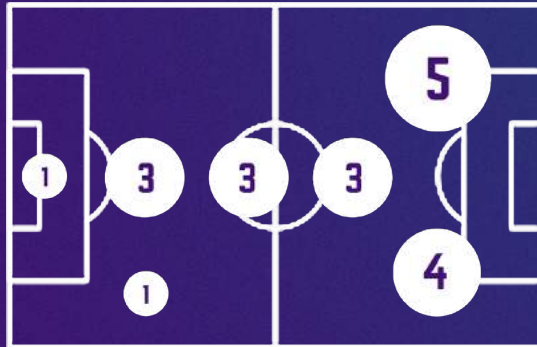
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RESULTS

RANK	PLAYER	TEAM 2018/19 (2019/20)	NATION	POSITION	YEAR OF BIRTH	VALUE (€ K)
1	MBAPPÉ	PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN	FRANCE	RIGHT WING	1998	261,560
2	SANCHO	BORUSSIA DORTMUND	ENGLAND	RIGHT WING	2000	120,289
3	DE LIGT	AFC AJAX	NETHERLANDS	CENTRE BACK	1999	74,540
4	HAVERTZ	BAYER 04 LEVERKUSEN	GERMANY	ATTACKING MIDFIELD	1999	74,207
5	ALEXANDER-ARNOLD	LIVERPOOL FC	ENGLAND	RIGHT BACK	1998	73,582
6	FÉLIX	SL BENFICA (ATLETICO MADRID)	PORTUGAL	LEFT WING	1999	71,830
7	DONNARUMMA	AC MILAN	ITALY	GOALKEEPER	1999	67,935
8	VINÍCIUS JR	REAL MADRID CF	BRAZIL	LEFT WING	2000	60,190
9	PULISIC	BORUSSIA DORTMUND (CHELSEA FC)	AMERICA	RIGHT WING	1998	57,217
10	MILITAO	FC PORTO (REAL MADRID CF)	BRAZIL	CENTRE BACK	1998	54,608
11	ZANIOLO	AS ROMA	ITALY	ATTACKING MIDFIELD	1999	45,274
12	GUENDOUZI	ARSENAL FC	FRANCE	CENTRE MIDFIELD	1999	42,784
13	AOUAR	OLYMPIQUE LYONNAIS	FRANCE	CENTRE MIDFIELD	1998	41,552
14	FODEN	MANCHESTER CITY FC	ENGLAND	ATTACKING MIDFIELD	2000	40,754
15	RICE	WEST HAM UNITED FC	ENGLAND	CENTRE MIDFIELD	1999	39,005
16	KONATÉ	RB LEIPZIG	FRANCE	CENTRE BACK	1999	36,276
17	RODRYGO	SANTOS (REAL MADRID CF)	BRAZIL	LEFT WING	2001	35,307
18	SESSEGNON	FULHAM FC	ENGLAND	LEFT WING	2000	33,783
19	CHUKWUEZE	VILLARREAL CF	NIGERIA	RIGHT WING	1999	32,330
20	HUDSON-ODOI	CHELSEA FC	ENGLAND	LEFT WING	2000	31,675

2019* / 2018 STATISTICS

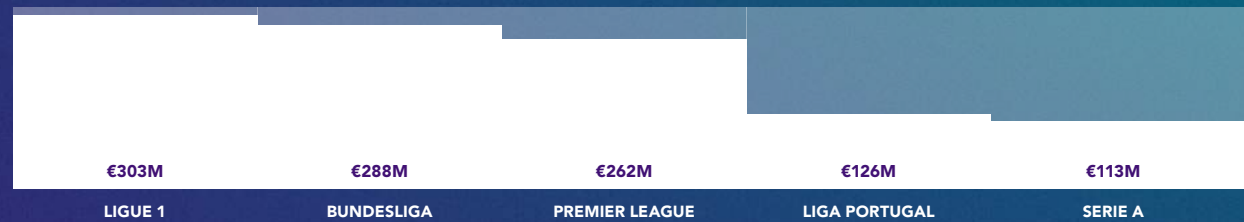
2019 PLAYER POSITIONS



PLAY FOR CLUBS OUTSIDE THEIR HOME NATION

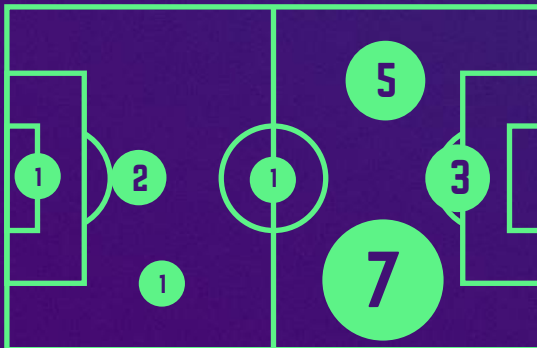


LEAGUE WITH THE MOST VALUABLE PLAYERS (TOP 5)



*STATISTICS ARE BASED ON THE PLAYERS' CLUBS FROM THE 2018/19 SEASON.

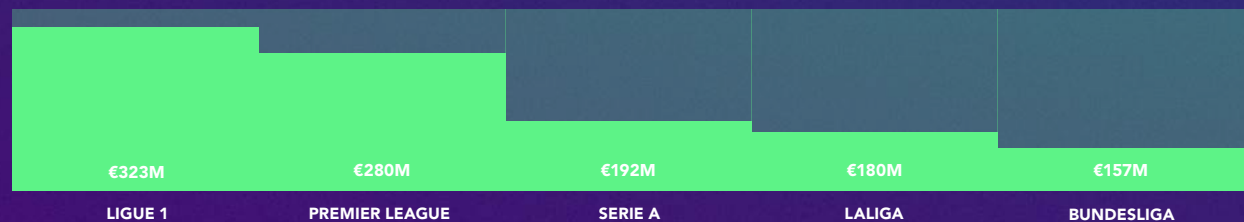
2018 PLAYER POSITIONS



PLAYED FOR CLUBS OUTSIDE THEIR HOME NATION



LEAGUE WITH THE MOST VALUABLE PLAYERS



COUNTRIES*



ENGLAND

6 ENGLISH PLAYERS
€339.2 MILLION
6 AT ENGLISH CLUBS
€262 MILLION

FRANCE

4 FRENCH PLAYERS
€382 MILLION
2 AT FRENCH CLUBS
€303 MILLION

BRAZIL

3 BRAZILIAN PLAYERS
€150 MILLION
0 AT BRAZILIAN CLUBS
€0

ITALY

2 ITALIAN PLAYERS
€113 MILLION
2 AT ITALIAN CLUBS
€113 MILLION

HOLLAND

1 DUTCH PLAYER
€75 MILLION
1 AT A DUTCH CLUB
€75 MILLION

GERMANY

1 GERMAN PLAYER
€74 MILLION
4 AT GERMAN CLUBS
€288 MILLION

PORTUGAL

1 PORTUGUESE PLAYER
€72 MILLION
2 AT PORTUGUESE CLUBS
€126 MILLION

USA

1 AMERICAN PLAYER
€57 MILLION
0 AT AMERICAN CLUBS
€0

NIGERIA

1 NIGERIAN PLAYER
€32 MILLION
0 AT NIGERIAN CLUBS
€0

BY CONTINENT

15 EUROPEAN
3 SOUTH AMERICAN
1 NORTH AMERICAN
1 AFRICAN

*STATISTICS ARE BASED ON THE PLAYERS' CLUBS FROM THE 2018/19 SEASON.

CONCLUSIONS

The most high-profile transfer of the summer so far has undoubtedly been Eden Hazard's the much-touted move to Real Madrid, for a reported fee of €100m. Hazard will be joining three of the players from this year's Soccerex 20 U21 Report at Los Blancos, with Rodrygo and Eder Militao joining Vinicius Junior in a restructured squad where increasingly the emphasis is on youth; these three young stars have also been joined by Serbian striker Luka Jovic, who was signed for €60m and who would have featured in this report but, having turned 21 on 23rd December 1997, he misses out on the criteria for our top 20 by a matter of days!

Hazard's transfer means that Kylian Mbappé looks to be staying put for another year at least and so speculation of what Real Madrid – or any other club – might have to pay for him will remain just that (speculation) for now. The Soccerex 20 Under 21 Report 2019 values the French superstar at €261.6m based on a methodology that evaluates performance factors such as minutes played, goals scored and international appearances in the context of wider environmental factors such as age, length of contract and quality of current club.

One thing is for certain. If, as seems likely, he moves to a Spanish or English heavyweight in the years to come, our report indicates his fee will be a record breaking one!

João Félix, the buy out that bucks the trend

Of the top 20, four players have transferred since the start of the year and three* of the four have moved for a fee within €5m of our valuation, highlighting the reliability of our model. The outlier is Portuguese wonderkid João Félix, who based on data prior to 1st July we have valued at €71.8m. That Atletico were willing to pay Benfica the €120m required to trigger his buyout clause is a reflection of his undoubted talent and the willingness of Europe's elite, fuelled by broadcast and Champions League revenues, to spend big on potential rather than his actual market value.

*Rodrygo's fee was agreed in the summer of 2018 when we valued him at €40m.

The rare number 9

For the first time, there are no out-and-out strikers in our report, although Italian front men Patrick Cutrone and Moise Kean are just outside the top 20. Genuine goal scorers – so important to a team's success - are a rare commodity and often it takes players time to make a success of or adapt to the position. It is worth noting that some of the most prolific forwards of the modern era such as Thierry Henry, Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi all started out as wingers before being converted into strikers. Mbappé is in a similar mould, having played for both club and country as the main striker, as well as out wide and, as his career develops, could well become the epitome of the new number 9.

The rising value of defence

Our methodology reflects the market principle that position affects value. In each edition there have been more attacking players than defensive ones but, this year, although the number of defensive players (i.e. defenders and goalkeepers) featuring is similar to previous editions, we have a higher concentration at the top end of the report, with two in the top 5 and four in the top 10. Leading the way are Matthijs de Ligt and Trent Alexander-Arnold who, after successful UEFA Champions League campaigns, both saw their values increase by over €20m from 2018. With de Ligt young enough to feature next year, and with rumours of a big money move on the horizon, he could become the first defender to top our list.

England on top

Despite a poor showing at this summer's UEFA U21 European Championships, England is the leading nation represented with six players in the top 20, double the amount from last year. The talent that led the country to victory in the FIFA U17 and U20 World Cups has started to see their potential realised, with many



gaining first team playing time over the past 12 months. None more so than Jadon Sancho whose transfer to Borussia Dortmund paid off spectacularly with the winger becoming one of the most exciting and prolific chance-creators in European football at just 19 years of age. England's dominance of the report looks set to continue with five of the six young enough to feature again next year.

France is the second most represented nation with four players, then Brazil with three, Italy with two and then one each for Portugal, Netherlands, USA, Germany and Nigeria. For the first time there are no Spanish players but LaLiga can now boast five of the top 20, following the moves of Joao Felix, Rodrygo and Eder Militao to Atletico Madrid and Real Madrid from SL Benfica, Santos and FC Porto respectively this summer.

The Premier League is the most represented league with six players – and this is excluding Christian Pulisic, whose ranking is based on his time at Borussia Dortmund. Of the other “Big Five” European leagues, the Bundesliga have four players in the report and Serie A and Ligue 1 both have two.

Youth market – stagnation or normalization?

The overall value of our top 20 has increased by 5.8% YoY and the value of the top 5 has increased by 16.5%. This pales in comparison to last year when the overall value went up by 66% and the top 5 by a whopping 73%. In one light, this reduction in the rate of growth could appear to indicate a stagnation in the value of U21 players – particularly in the context of the overall YoY growth experienced in 2017 (62%) – but, in truth, the sharp rises in 2017 and 2018 were fuelled by vast revenues from the record-breaking Premier League broadcasting rights deal that began in 2017 and the paradigm shift caused by PSG triggering Neymar's huge buyout clause in 2018. The values in this year's report represent more a market normalization where, without the impact of extreme external forces, values have increased at a more measured rate in line with overall market trends.

It is also worth noting that in 2018, there was a greater percentage of players featuring in the report for the final year – nine in 2018 compared with just five in 2019 – and so “peaking” in terms of their report valuation. It will be interesting to see just how much the appreciation in value of the 15 eligible to feature again next year will mitigate the loss of Kylian Mbappé, who, under our methodology having been born in 1998, will not be eligible for the 2020 report.

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