

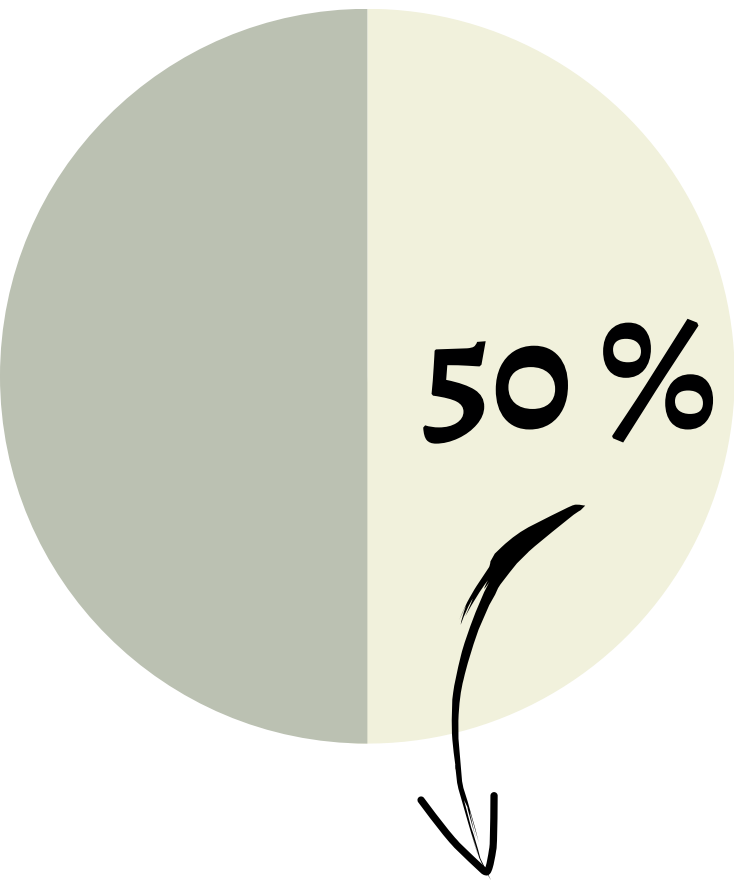
# WNBA Wage Gap.



**By Samson Mbogo**

In the world of basketball stardom, the NBA and WNBA share the same court but not the same paycheck. It's a tale of two leagues, two sets of rules, and one glaring disparity that echoes unfair compensation.

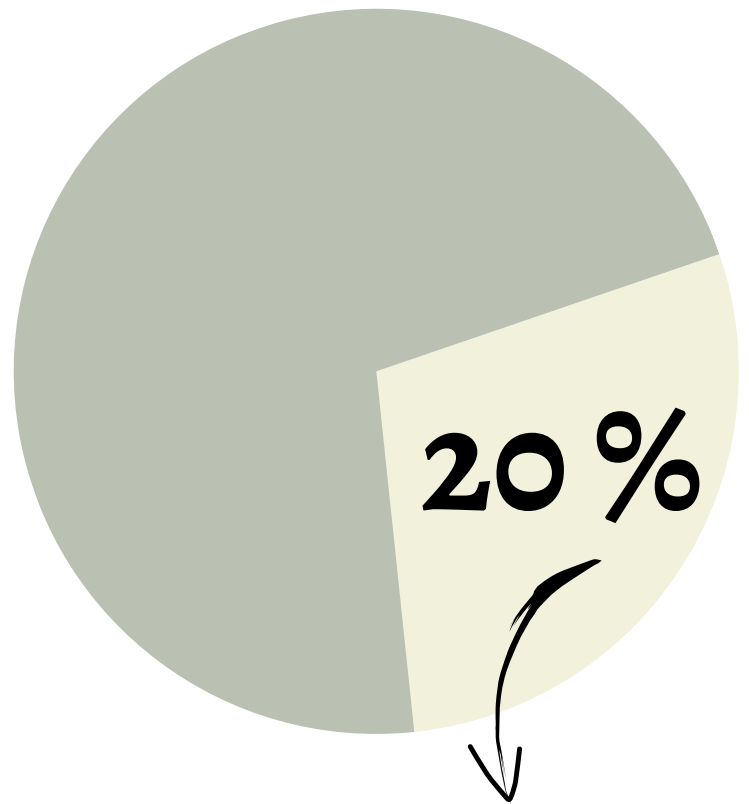
WNBA players earn far less than their NBA counterparts, not because their league is less successful but because they receive only a fragment of their league's revenue, while their male counterparts take home a sizeable share of the NBA's total revenue, according to [NBC Sports](#).



**Legally agreed upon  
share of NBA revenue  
towards player salaries**

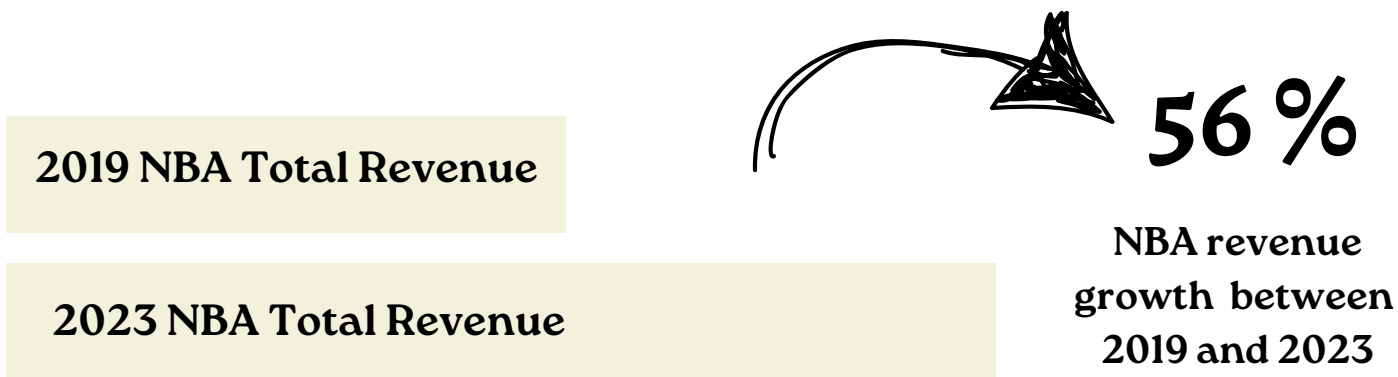
This disparity is a critical factor contributing to the substantial difference in salaries between men and women basketball players as reported by Winsidr.

To be precise, NBA players receive 50% of their league's earnings as per their "50-50" CBA (a legal agreement between the NBA and its player union) while WNBA players despite renegotiating their CBA, only take home 20% of their league's revenue.

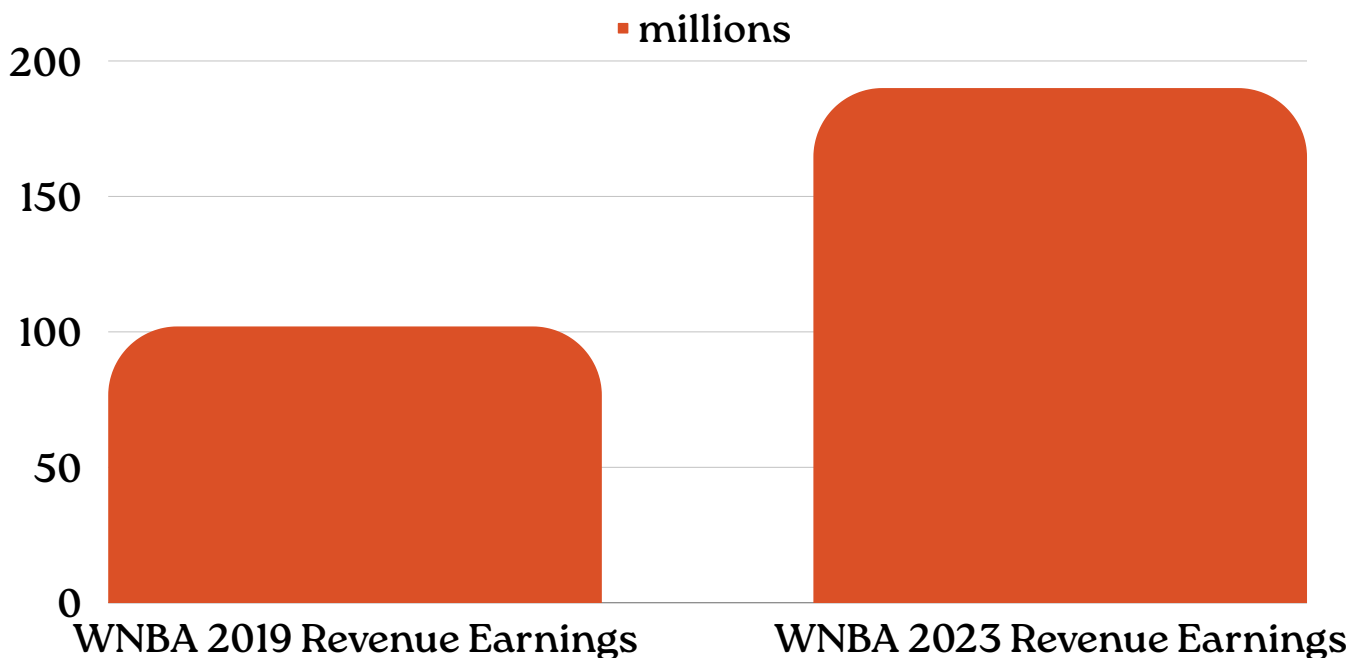


**2023 share of WNBA  
revenue towards player  
salaries**

Comparing revenue growth rates between the NBA and WNBA further accentuates the disparity. In 2019, the NBA's total revenue stood at \$8.3 billion, according to ESPN, this year the league is projected to net close to \$13 billion in total revenue, representing a 56% financial growth.

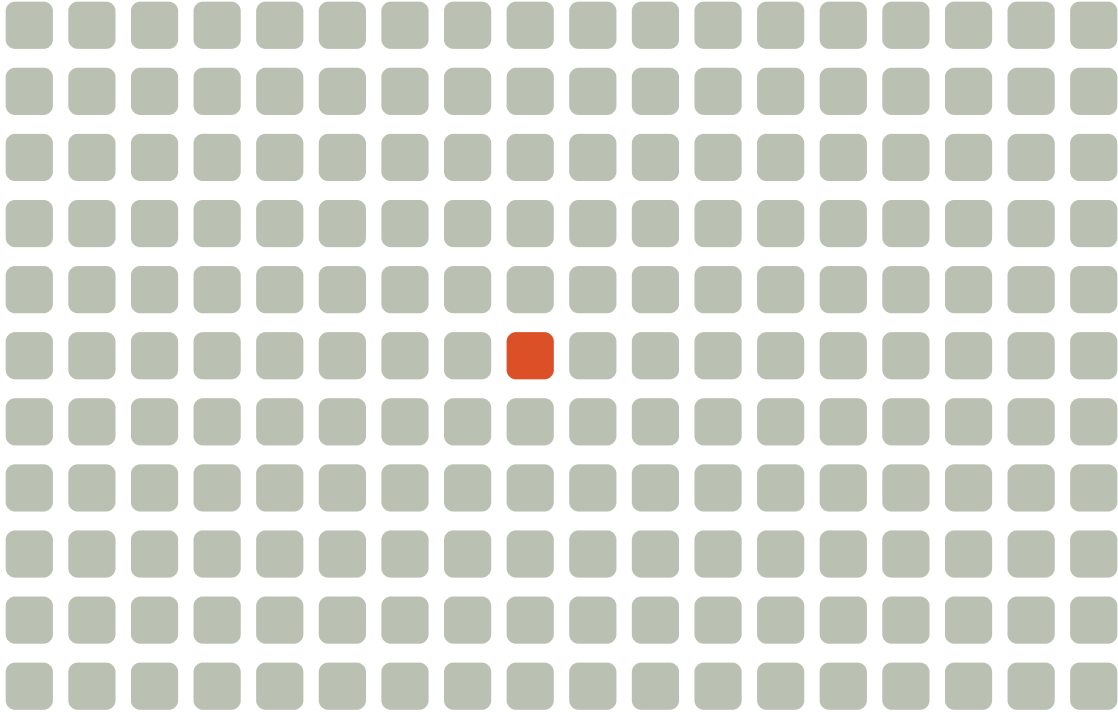


Within the same period the WNBA is projected to achieve an 88.2% revenue growth according to a Bloomberg report that forecast a revenue of generation between \$180 and \$200 million this year, up from \$102 million in 2019.



The extent of the wage gap becomes starkly evident when examining the salaries of the highest and lowest earners in both leagues.

This year, the highest-paid NBA player is Stephen Curry of the Golden State Warriors, who is projected to make close to \$52 million in salary, according to ESPN. The top earner in the WNBA this year will be Arike Ogunbowale of the Dallas Wings, taking home a salary close to \$242,000.



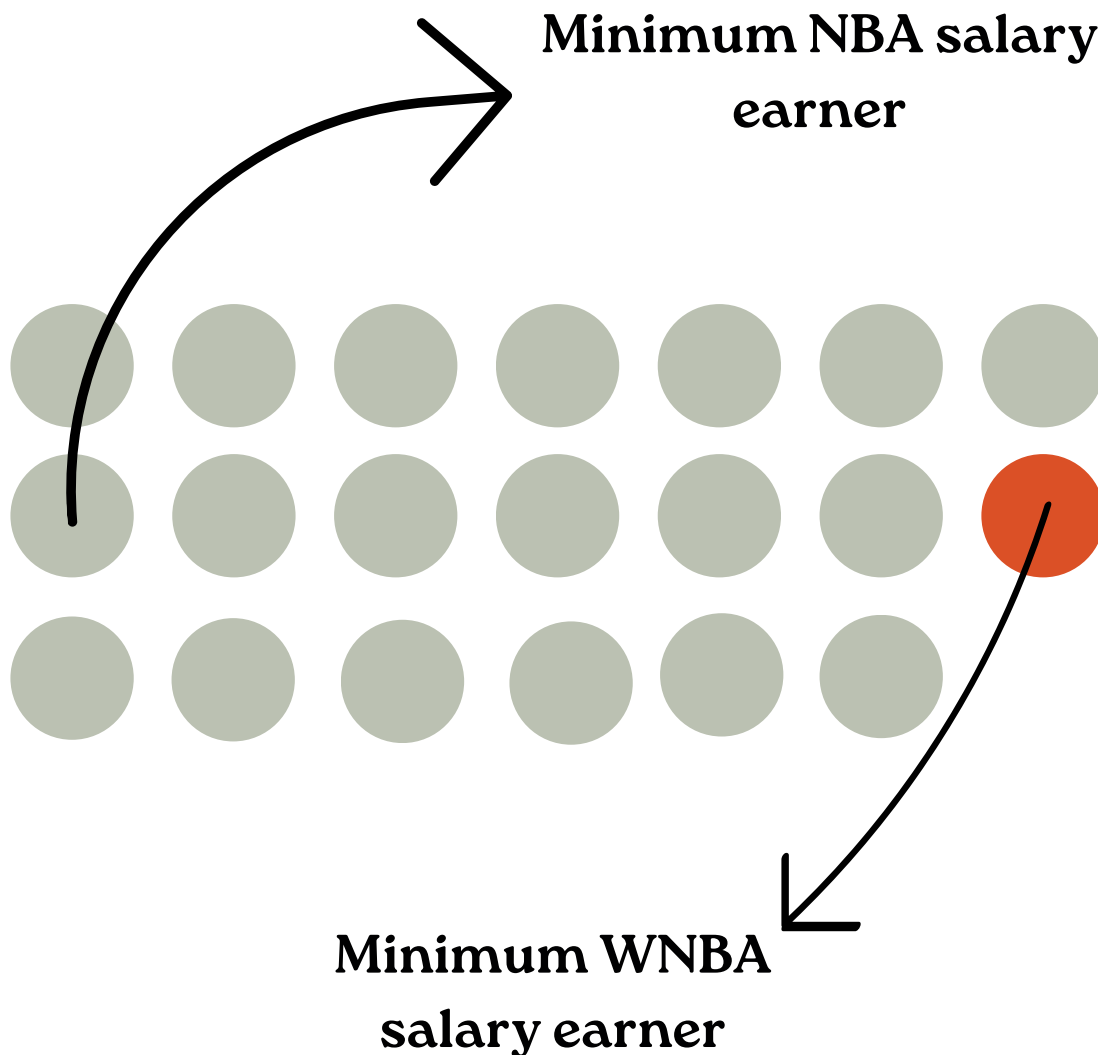
Curry will earn approximately 200 times the salary of Ogunbowale, the highest paid player in the WNBA.

Stephen Curry's salary for 2023-2024 season - Highest NBA earner 

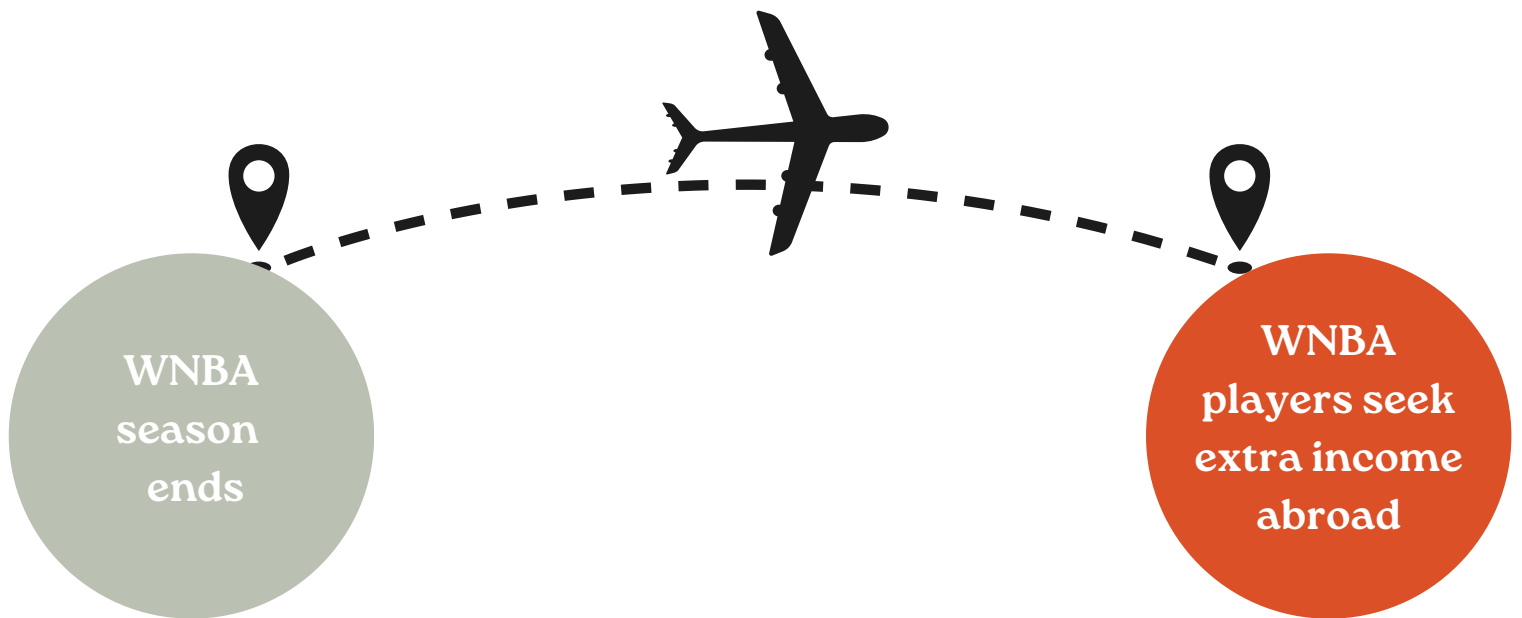
 Arike Ogunbowale salary for 2023-2024 season - Highest WNBA earner

On the lower end, the minimum wage of a WNBA player this season is around \$62,285 according to an Al Jazeera report while the minimum salary of an NBA player is close to \$ 1.1 million, according to Statista.

In short, the minimum wage earner in the NBA will make close to 20 times more than the minimum wage earner in the WNBA, further highlighting the wage gap between the two leagues.



This pay disparity has reportedly led to financial constraints amongst WNBA players forcing a number of them to seek better pay abroad during their off-season where they have faced challenges as explained by NPR in the case of Brittney Griner, who was jailed in Russia where she had gone to play basketball.



While numbers do not indicate signs that the wage gap between the WNBA and the NBA will close anytime soon, they paint a very vivid image of the inequalities that prevail in the world of sports including gender equality, fair compensation, and the value we place on women's professional athletic contributions.