

Hey, big spenders

The 5 football clubs that have spent the most in the football transfer market since 2003

Chelsea
(€2.34 billion)



Bought by billionaire Roman Abramovich (below) in 2003, whose financial weight helped carry Chelsea to its most successful era in the last two decades. Currently valued at US\$3.2 billion.



Man City
(€2.24 billion)



Bought by Abu Dhabi United Group for £210 million in 2008, achieved record-breaking success under the management of Spaniard Pep Guardiola. Now 75% owned by Abu Dhabi, 12.4% by two Chinese firms, 10.4% by private equity group Silver Lake and 2.1% by Vega FZ.

Barcelona
(€1.98 billion)



Owned and operated by its own members, Barcelona have become emblematic of the profligacy that has plagued the footballing world in recent times. Spent recklessly in the transfer window, wasted proceeds from Neymar's sale. The financial troubles they've run into are so severe they had to let Messi go. Still, Barca is the world's highest valued team at US\$4.76 billion.

Real Madrid
(€1.91 billion)



Real Madrid is organised as a registered association. The club is owned by its supporters who elect its president. Real have broken the world record for transfers multiple times, starting from 2001 when they signed Zidane for €77.5m. Second highest valued team in the world at US\$4.75 billion.

Man United
(€1.82 billion)



Bought by the Glazer family from the US in 2005. The Red Devils remain the most valuable English Premier League club today at US\$4.2 billion, but have dropped from third to fourth most valuable in the world, behind Germany's Bayern Munich at US\$4.22 billion.

Key transfers:

- Lukaku €115m
- Kai Havertz €80m
- Kepa Arizabalaga €80m
- Alvaro Morata €66m
- Christian Pulisic €64m
- Fernando Torres €58.5m
- Jorginho €57m
- Timo Werner €53m
- Ben Chilwell €50m
- Signed 19 players for between €30m and €50m

Romelu Lukaku



Jack Grealish

- Jack Grealish €117m
- Kevin de Bruyne €76m
- Ruben Dias €68m
- Riyad Mahrez €67m
- Joao Cancelo €65m
- Aymeric Laporte €63m
- Raheem Sterling €63m
- Rodri, Benjamin Mendy, John Stones, Kyle Walker, Leroy Sane, Bernardo Silva, all more than €50m each

Philippe Coutinho



- Philippe Coutinho and Ousmane Dembele, €135m each.
- Antoine Griezmann €120m
- Neymar Jr €88.2m
- Frenkie De Jong €86m
- Luis Suarez €81.72m
- Zlatan Ibrahimovic €69.5m
- Rodri, Benjamin Mendy, John Stones, Kyle Walker, Leroy Sane, Bernardo Silva all more than €50m each.
- Miralem Pjanic €60m
- Malcom €41m
- Andre Gomes €37m

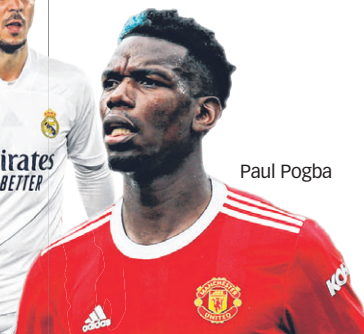
- Eden Hazard €115m
- Gareth Bale €101m
- Cristiano Ronaldo €94m
- James Rodriguez €74m
- Kaka €67m
- Luka Jovic €64m
- Luis Figo €60m
- Eder Militao €50m

Eden Hazard



- Romelu Lukaku €84.7m
- Angel Di Maria €75m
- Henrikh Mkhitaryan €42m
- Paul Pogba €105m
- Jadon Sancho €85m
- Harry Maguire €87m

Paul Pogba



Note: Valuations according to Forbes as at April 12, 2021