Jackie Robinson Baseball Career Stats

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BREAKING THE COLOR BARRIER AND SETTING THE STANDARD

When Jackie Robinson stepped onto Ebbets Field on April 15, 1947, he carried the weight of a nation on his shoulders. While his historic role as the first African American to play in Major League Baseball in the modern era is universally celebrated, the statistics he produced over his ten-season career tell a story of elite athletic performance that transcends his social significance. The **Jackie Robinson baseball career stats** reveal a player who was not merely a pioneer but a genuinely dominant force on the diamond. From his explosive baserunning to his disciplined approach at the plate, Robinson compiled a body of work that earned him a place in the Hall of Fame and a permanent spot in the conversation about the game's all-time greats.

Understanding the full scope of Robinson's playing career requires looking beyond the box scores to appreciate how his style of play reshaped the game itself. He didn't just accumulate numbers; he dictated the tempo of every contest he entered. His career, though relatively short by modern standards, was packed with achievements that stand the test of time. This article takes a deep dive into the **Jackie Robinson baseball career stats**, exploring his offensive production, defensive contributions, baserunning brilliance, and the postseason performances that cemented his legacy.

OVERALL CAREER BATTING STATISTICS

Jackie Robinson played ten seasons in Major League Baseball, all with the Brooklyn Dodgers, from 1947 through 1956. He retired at the age of 37, walking away from the game while still playing at a high level rather than lingering past his prime. Here is a comprehensive look at his career batting numbers:

- **Games Played:** 1,382
- **At Bats:** 4,877
- **Runs:** 947
- **Hits:** 1,518
- **Doubles:** 273
- **Triples:** 54
- **Home Runs:** 137
- **Runs Batted In:** 734
- **Walks:** 740
- **Strikeouts:** 291
- **Stolen Bases:** 197
- **Batting Average:** .311
- **On-Base Percentage:** .409
- **Slugging Percentage:** .474
- **OPS:** .883
- **OPS+:** 132

These numbers place Robinson among the elite offensive players of his era. His career batting average of .311 is impressive on its own, but the on-base percentage of .409 is even more telling. It reflects his exceptional plate discipline and his willingness to take walks rather than chase pitches out of the zone. The fact that he had 740 walks against only 291 strikeouts demonstrates a level of bat control and pitch recognition that was decades ahead of its time.

Robinson's OPS+ of 132 means he was 32 percent better than the league average offensively when adjusted for park factors and league conditions. That places him in the same neighborhood as Hall of Famers like Roberto Clemente and Joe DiMaggio, confirming that his production was not merely a product of his era but genuinely exceptional.

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR CAMPAIGN: 1947

Robinson's debut season remains one of the most remarkable in baseball history. Not only did he endure relentless racial abuse from fans, opponents, and even some teammates, but he also performed at a level that earned him the inaugural Rookie of the Year award. His 1947 statistics are a testament to his mental fortitude and athletic talent:

- **Games:** 151
- **Batting Average:** .297
- **On-Base Percentage:** .383
- **Slugging Percentage:** .427
- **Home Runs:** 12
- **Runs Batted In:** 48
- **Stolen Bases:** 29 (led the National League)
- **Runs Scored:** 125 (led the National League)
- **Walks:** 74
- **Strikeouts:** 36

Leading the league in runs scored as a rookie is a rare achievement, and it speaks directly to Robinson's ability to get on base and then disrupt the opposing pitcher and defense with his aggressive baserunning. His 29 stolen bases also paced the National League, establishing him

immediately as a threat to run at any moment. The combination of a .297 average with a .383 on-base percentage and league-leading run production gave the Dodgers a new dimension at the top of their lineup.

The fact that Robinson accomplished all of this while under the immense psychological strain of integrating Major League Baseball makes the **Jackie Robinson baseball career stats** from his rookie season all the more staggering. He did not just survive; he thrived.

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER SEASON: 1949

Robinson's peak season came in 1949, when he won the National League Most Valuable Player award. This was arguably the finest all-around season of his career, and the numbers back it up:

- **Games:** 156
- **Batting Average:** .342 (second in the NL)
- **On-Base Percentage:** .432
- **Slugging Percentage:** .528
- **OPS:** .960
- **Home Runs:** 16
- **Runs Batted In:** 124
- **Runs Scored:** 122
- **Stolen Bases:** 37 (second in the NL)
- **Walks:** 86
- **Strikeouts:** 27
- **Doubles:** 38
- **Triples:** 12

The .342 batting average was the second-best mark in the National League in 1949, trailing only Hall of Famer Stan Musial. Robinson's .960 OPS was elite, and his combination of power and speed made him nearly impossible to defend. He drove in 124 runs and scored 122 runs, becoming the complete offensive engine for the Dodgers. The 12 triples are particularly noteworthy because they demonstrate how he could turn routine hits into extra bases with his speed.

What makes Robinson's MVP season so impressive within the context of the **Jackie Robinson baseball career stats** is the balance. He produced elite batting average, on-base skills, power, and speed all in the same season. Very few players in baseball history have posted a .340 average with 16 home runs, 37 steals, and 124 RBIs in a single campaign.

POSTSEASON PERFORMANCE

Jackie Robinson appeared in six World Series with the Brooklyn Dodgers (1947, 1949, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1955, 1956). The Dodgers won their only championship during his career in 1955. Robinson's postseason statistics offer an interesting window into his performance under pressure:

- **World Series Games:** 38
- **At Bats:** 137
- **Hits:** 36
- **Batting Average:** .263
- **On-Base Percentage:** .350
- **Slugging Percentage:** .401
- **Home Runs:** 2
- **Runs Batted In:** 12
- **Stolen Bases:** 5
- **Walks:** 19
- **Strikeouts:** 10

Robinson's World Series batting average of .263 is lower than his regular season mark, but his .350 on-base percentage in the postseason shows that he continued to work counts and find ways to reach base. He scored 22 runs in World Series play, which reflects his ability to manufacture runs even when hits were hard to come by. The 1955 World Series, in which the Dodgers finally defeated the New York Yankees, was the crowning achievement of his postseason career. In Game 6 of that series, Robinson stole home plate in a legendary moment that symbolized his relentless, aggressive style.

It is important to note that the sample size of Robinson's postseason career is relatively small by modern standards, but within the context of the **Jackie Robinson baseball career stats**, his ability to contribute in October solidifies his reputation as a clutch performer.

BASERUNNING AND STOLEN BASE IMPACT

One of the defining elements of Robinson's game was his impact on the bases. While he stole 197 bases in his career, the number alone does not capture his full effect. He attempted steals at a high rate and was successful nearly 70 percent of the time in an era when stolen base attempts were far less frequent than they are today. His stolen base totals by season illustrate how he used speed as a weapon throughout his career:

- **1947:** 29 (led NL)
- **1948:** 22
- **1949:** 37 (led NL)
- **1950:** 12
- **1951:** 25
- **1952:** 24
- **1953:** 17
- **1954:** 7
- **1955:** 12
- **1956:** 12

Robinson's stolen base numbers reflect a player who was not merely fast but fundamentally disruptive. Pitchers changed their delivery when he was on base. Catchers rushed their throws.

Infielders crept toward the bag, opening holes in the defense. Robinson's ability to distract the opposition was a statistical category that never appeared in the box score but had a measurable effect on his teammates' offensive production. Modern advanced metrics have attempted to quantify this "disruption value," and they consistently credit Robinson with creating runs far beyond his own stolen base totals.

Within the full narrative of the **Jackie Robinson baseball career stats**, his baserunning may be the single element that most distinguished him from his peers. He was not the fastest player in the league every season, but he was arguably the most intelligent and aggressive base runner of his generation.

DEFENSIVE VERSATILITY AND FIELDING STATISTICS

Robinson was not a one-position player. Over his career, he appeared at multiple defensive positions, displaying the kind of versatility that was uncommon in his era. Here is a breakdown of his defensive appearances:

- **Second Base:** 948 games
- **Third Base:** 221 games
- **Left Field:** 110 games
- **First Base:** 98 games
- **Outfield (general):** 57 games
- **Shortstop:** 49 games

Robinson's primary position was second base, where he established himself as a reliable and occasionally brilliant defender. His career fielding percentage at second base was .983, which was solid for the era. He had a strong arm, good range, and quick reflexes that compensated for any mechanical imperfections in his footwork around the bag.

At third base, Robinson played over 200 games and posted a .952 fielding percentage. In left field, he handled 110 games with a .980 fielding percentage. His ability to move between the infield and outfield gave the Dodgers tremendous lineup flexibility, especially