Transfer values and probabilities

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1. Introduction

A new transfer window is shortly approaching for the principal countries of European football. During summer 2014 the big-5 league clubs spent a record 2.44 billion euro in transfer fees[1]. With the increase in revenues for the richest clubs, it is more than likely that the level of investments will be similar or even greater for this transfer period.

Moreover, the easing of the financial fair-play regime announced by UEFA should allow the most affected clubs such as Paris St-Germain and Manchester City to invest massively in the recruitment of new players. This will probably reinforce the process of rising transfer costs and will result in a new record concerning transfer expenditure.

The 6th Monthly Report of the CIES Football Observatory focuses not only on the transfer value of big-5 league players. We are also proud to be able to present for the first time the probabilities of fee paying transfers for players active in the five major European leagues. This was a major achievement of the research work carried out by our academic team during the last year.

For either the value or the probability of transfer, our estimates are based on econometrical models taking into account numerous variables relative to players and their teams as illustrated in Figure 1 below. Transfer values and probabilities are estimated on the basis of over 1,500 fee-paying transfers involving big-5 league clubs from June 2009 up until the present.

The data presented refers to the situation on the 8th June 2015. Matches played or contracts extended after this date are not included in the analysis. Our estimates take into account the inflationary trend of transfer fees. During the last six seasons, this was observed for the upper segment of the market in particular.

During the last two transfer windows, the correlation measured between transfer fees estimated and those actually paid was greater than 80%. The strength of the correlation shows, on one hand, that the footballers' market is rational and, on the other, that its rationality is well understood by the statistical model developed by our research team.
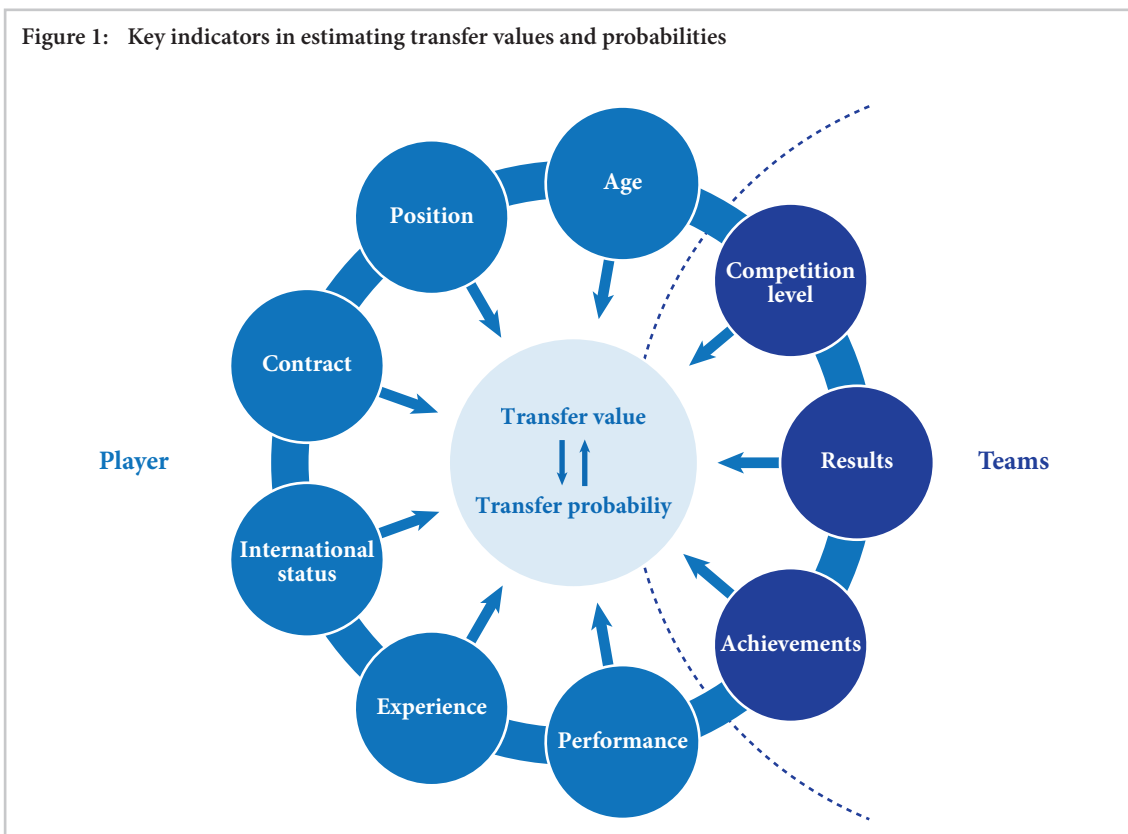
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[1] For an in-depth analysis of transfer expenditure, please refer to the third issue of the CIES Football Observatory Monthly Report, as well as to Big-5 Weekly Post number 81 and number 82.

Our model also allows us to identify market bias that is possible to exploit by letting over-valued players go for a high fee, or by recruiting under-valued footballers for a keen price. The final chapter of this report identifies the best performing players available for free because the contract binding them to the employer club is coming to an end. It also highlights the best performing footballers with only one year of contract remaining.

Prior to this, chapter 2 presents the rankings of 100 players that our approach has identified as most likely to be transferred for a fee. For each player, we also present the price range that purchasing clubs should pay taking into account the amounts spent previously for players with similar characteristics.

Chapter 3 presents the ranking of the 100 players with the highest transfer values. For these footballers, we also present the level of probability of a fee-paying transfer taking place. This is also relevant as the most expensive players are not necessarily those who have the greatest wish to change teams or those for whom employer teams are more willing to accept a transfer.

Figure 1:   Key indicators in estimating transfer values and probabilities

2. The most likely fee paying transfers

Among the footballers with the greatest transfer probability are many players from relegated clubs. Indeed, relegation obliges teams to compensate declining revenues through transfers. Moreover, this situation tends to encourage players to leave the club. Consequently, relegated teams often offer interesting recruitment possibilities.

Players with one remaining year of contract are also over-represented among those with the greatest possibility of a paid transfer. Indeed, if the player does not wish to renew, clubs find themselves obliged to let him go to avoid a free departure. Only four out of the 20 players with the highest probability of a fee-paying transfer have contracts expiring after June 2017: Alexandre Lacazette, Nabil Fekir, Jordan Ayew and Grégoire Defrel.

Raheem Sterling is the player with the highest transfer value among the 100 footballers with the greatest transfer probability. He is followed by Alexis Sánchez, Antoine Griezmann, Harry Kane and Philippe Coutinho. Numerous other players with transfer values of over €20 million figure in the list below: Alexandre Lacazette, Gonzalo Higuaín, Miralem Pjanić, Mauro Icardi, Nabil Fekir, José Callejón, Karim Bellarabi, Bernardo Silva, Saido Berahino, Carlos Bacca, Roberto Firmino, Yannick Ferreira Carrasco, Domenico Berardi, Nathan Clyne and Paulo Dybala.

In the list there are also three players who were already the subject of paid transfers: Paulo Dybala, Gonzalo Castro and Anthony Ujah. In the first two cases, the transfer sum reported was well above the estimated value. The recruiting clubs undoubtedly accepted to pay over the odds so as to be one step ahead of the competition. On the contrary, the fee paid for Anthony Ujah was slightly less than our estimate.

Figure 2a: The 100 big-5 league players with the greatest probability of a paid transfer[2]

		Contract	Age	Value
1.	Charlie Austin (QPR)	2016	25	10.2-11.2
2.	Albin Ekdal (Cagliari)	2016	25	3.4-3.7
3.	Paulo Dybala (Palermo)	2016	21	18.3-20.1
4.	Raheem Sterling (Liverpool)	2017	20	73.7-81.0
5.	José Mauri (Parma)	2016	19	3.5-3.9
6.	Alexandre Lacazette (Lyon)	2018	24	35.5-39.1
7.	Raphaël Guerreiro (Lorient)	2017	21	8.0-8.8
8.	Alberto Paloschi (Chievo)	2016	25	4.6-5.1
9.	Ilkay Gündoğan (Dortmund)	2016	24	16.9-18.6
10.	Daniel Wass (Evian TG)	2016	26	2.0-2.2
11.	Elias Kachunga (Paderborn)	2016	23	1.8-2.0
12.	Tomer Hemed (Almería)	2016	28	1.2-1.4
13.	Fabián Orellana (Celta Vigo)	2016	29	4.7-5.2
14.	Romain Métanire (Metz)	2016	25	1.0-1.1
15.	Bouna Sarr (Metz)	2016	23	1.4-1.5
16.	Nabil Fekir (Lyon)	2019	21	26.0-28.6
17.	Jordan Ayew (Lorient)	2018	23	13.2-14.5
18.	Grégoire Defrel (Cesena)	2018	23	6.0-6.6
19.	Oliver Sorg (Freiburg)	2016	25	2.0-2.2
20.	Shinji Okazaki (Mainz)	2016	29	3.5-3.9
21.	Raúl Bobadilla (Augsburg)	2016	27	3.5-3.9
22.	Roberto Firmino (Hoffenheim)	2017	23	20.0-22.0
23.	Jake Livermore (Hull City)	2017	25	5.8-6.4
24.	Christian Gentner (Stuttgart)	2016	29	1.9-2.1
25.	Adrien Thomasson (Evian TG)	2016	21	1.3-1.5
26.	Wissam Ben Yedder (Toulouse)	2017	24	7.5-8.3
27.	Pablo Chavarría (Lens)	2016	27	0.8-0.9
28.	Gonzalo Higuaín (Napoli)	2018	27	34.1-37.5
29.	Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang (Dortmund)	2018	25	14.5-16.0
30.	Tom Huddlestone (Hull City)	2016	28	4.6-5.1
31.	Franco Di Santo (Werder Bremen)	2016	26	7.2-7.9
32.	Jonathan Schmid (Freiburg)	2018	24	3.4-3.8
33.	Kevin Mirallas (Everton)	2016	27	6.6-7.3
34.	Branimir Hrgota (M'gladbach)	2016	22	3.8-4.2
35.	Pablo Sarabia (Getafe)	2016	23	3.7-4.1
36.	Vladimír Darida (Freiburg)	2018	24	5.5-6.0
37.	Stefano Okaka (Sampdoria)	2016	25	5.7-6.3
38.	Saido Berahino (WBA)	2017	21	20.7-22.8
39.	Alexis Sánchez (Arsenal)	2018	26	67.8-74.6
40.	Elseid Hysaj (Empoli)	2016	21	5.1-5.6
41.	Mauro Icardi (Internazionale)	2019	22	26.1-28.7
42.	Johannes Geis (Mainz)	2017	21	6.7-7.4
43.	Martín Cáceres (Juventus)	2016	28	2.2-2.4
44.	Wylan Cyprien (Lens)	2017	20	2.1-2.3
45.	Uwe Hünemeier (Paderborn)	2016	29	0.9-1.0
46.	Ahmed Elmohamady (Hull City)	2016	27	2.9-3.2
47.	Yannick Ferreira Carrasco (Monaco)	2019	21	20.0-22.0
48.	Roman Neustädter (Schalke)	2016	27	4.1-4.5
49.	Harry Kane (Tottenham)	2020	21	53.5-58.9
50.	Ryad Boudebouz (Bastia)	2016	25	2.6-2.9

[2] Players on loan are not included in the ranking.

Figure 2b: The 100 big-5 league players with the greatest probability of a paid transfer

		Contract	Age	Value
51.	Graziano Pellè (Southampton)	2017	29	14.5-15.9
52.	Andreas Weimann (Aston Villa)	2016	23	3.6-4.0
53.	Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool)	2020	22	50.4-55.5
54.	Martin Harnik (Stuttgart)	2016	27	2.5-2.8
55.	Karim Bellarabi (Leverkusen)	2020	25	23.5-25.8
56.	Lukas Rupp (Paderborn)	2016	24	1.6-1.8
57.	Lenny Nangis (Caen)	2016	21	2.6-2.9
58.	Haris Seferović (Frankfurt)	2017	23	7.9-8.7
59.	Gonzalo Castro (Leverkusen)	2016	27	6.6-7.3
60.	Leroy Fer (QPR)	2017	25	6.4-7.0
61.	Moritz Stoppelkamp (Paderborn)	2016	28	1.0-1.1
62.	Andrea Bertolacci (Genoa)	2017	24	12.1-13.3
63.	Loïck Landre (Lens)	2016	23	1.1-1.2
64.	Mirko Valdifiori (Empoli)	2017	29	5.1-5.6
65.	Dimitri Payet (Marseille)	2017	28	14.2-15.6
66.	Sofiane Feghouli (Valencia)	2016	25	6.6-7.3
67.	Marcel Risse (Köln)	2016	25	2.4-2.6
68.	Abdelhamid El Kaoutari (Montpellier)	2016	25	2.6-2.9
69.	Dani García (Eibar)	2016	25	2.1-2.3
70.	Anthony Modeste (Hoffenheim)	2016	27	1.8-2.0
71.	Nathaniel Clyne (Southampton)	2016	24	19.0-20.9
72.	Yoann Touzghar (Lens)	2016	28	0.7-0.8
73.	Anthony Lopes (Lyon)	2016	24	7.7-8.5
74.	Nolan Roux (Lille)	2016	27	2.5-2.8
75.	Ashley Barnes (Burnley)	2017	25	3.6-4.0
76.	João Moutinho (Monaco)	2018	28	9.8-10.8
77.	Steven Caulker (QPR)	2018	23	8.4-9.3
78.	Diego Rolán (Bordeaux)	2017	22	9.8-10.7
79.	Joël Matip (Schalke)	2016	23	6.4-7.0
80.	Anthony Ujah (Köln)	2017	24	5.1-5.6
81.	Simone Zaza (Sassuolo)	2019	23	12.1-13.3
82.	Miralem Pjanić (Roma)	2018	25	31.7-34.9
83.	Riccardo Meggiorini (Chievo)	2016	29	1.4-1.5
84.	Bernardo Silva (Monaco)	2019	20	21.4-23.5
85.	David Hoilett (QPR)	2016	25	1.4-1.5
86.	Ander Capa (Eibar)	2016	23	2.3-2.5
87.	Kevin Grosskreutz (Dortmund)	2016	26	4.8-5.3
88.	Domenico Berardi (Sassuolo)	2019	20	19.8-21.8
89.	Gilles Sunu (Evian TG)	2016	24	1.1-1.2
90.	Carlos Bacca (Sevilla)	2018	28	20.5-22.6
91.	José María Callejón (Napoli)	2018	28	23.7-26.1
92.	Mario Vrančić (Paderborn)	2016	26	2.1-2.3
93.	Antoine Griezmann (Atlético Madrid)	2020	24	59.0-64.9
94.	Saúl Berjón (Eibar)	2016	29	1.6-1.8
95.	Paolo De Ceglie (Juventus)	2017	28	1.8-2.0
96.	Claudio Beauvue (Guingamp)	2017	27	4.7-5.2
97.	Jordan Veretout (Nantes)	2017	22	5.5-6.1
98.	Marco Höger (Schalke)	2016	25	3.2-3.5
99.	Iñigo Martínez (Real Sociedad)	2017	24	12.1-13.3
100.	Felipe Caicedo (Espanyol)	2016	26	2.7-3.0

3. The highest transfer values

Footballers with the highest transfer values generally play in competitive teams, are active full internationals, play in attacking positions, have long-term contracts and are under 27 years of age. The 100 footballers listed below[3] do not only differentiate themselves from the point of view of the transfer value, but also from that of transfer probability.

Transfer probability was assessed according to three categories: high (at least twice as much as for other big-5 league players), intermediate (greater than that of other big-5 league footballers) and low (inferior to that of other big-5 league players).

Unsurprisingly, Lionel Messi tops the ranking. For the first time, in second place we find Eden Hazard. The Belgian from Chelsea is ahead of Christian Ronaldo. Aside from the Portuguese, only six other players having already celebrated their 30th birthday figure on the top 100 places: Yaya Touré, Santi Cazorla, Andrés Iniesta, Carlos Tévez, Thiago Silva and Luiz Fernandinho.

On the contrary, following the example of Raheem Sterling, Paul Pogba or Harry Kane, many of the most expensive players are under 23 years of age. The youngest is Calum Chambers. The full back from Arsenal was born in January 1995, some months after three other young talents present in the ranking: Raheem Sterling, Nabil Bentaleb and Kurt Zouma.

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[3] Appendix 1 presents the aggregated data on transfer values compiled for each big-5 league team.

Figure 3a: The 100 big-5 league players with the highest transfer values

		Contract	Age	Value	Probability	Evolution
1.	Lionel Messi (Barcelona)	2018	27	255.3-280.8	*	↗
2.	Eden Hazard (Chelsea)	2020	24	135.4-148.9	*	↗
3.	Cristiano Ronaldo (Real Madrid)	2018	30	113.3-124.7	*	↘
4.	Neymar Júnior (Barcelona)	2018	23	89.6-98.5	*	↗
5.	Sergio Agüero (Manchester City)	2019	27	78.2-86.0	*	↗
6.	Raheem Sterling (Liverpool)	2017	20	73.7-81.0	***	↗
7.	Paul Pogba (Juventus)	2019	22	70.3-77.3	*	=
8.	Diego Costa (Chelsea)	2019	26	69.9-76.9	*	↘
9.	Alexis Sánchez (Arsenal)	2018	26	67.8-74.6	***	↗
10.	James Rodríguez (Real Madrid)	2020	23	62.5-68.8	*	↗
11.	Luis Suárez (Barcelona)	2019	28	60.0-66.0	*	↗
12.	Antoine Griezmann (Atlético Madrid)	2020	24	59.0-64.9	***	↗
13.	Francesc Fàbregas (Chelsea)	2019	28	58.7-64.5	*	=
14.	Isco Alarcón (Real Madrid)	2018	23	57.2-62.9	*	↗
15.	Harry Kane (Tottenham)	2020	21	53.5-58.9	***	↗
16.	Gareth Bale (Real Madrid)	2019	25	51.3-56.4	*	↘
17.	Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool)	2020	22	50.4-55.5	***	↗
18.	Thibaut Courtois (Chelsea)	2019	23	50.3-55.3	*	↗
19.	Oscar dos Santos (Chelsea)	2019	23	47.5-52.3	**	=
20.	Karim Benzema (Real Madrid)	2019	27	44.6-49.1	*	=
21.	Mario Götze (Bayern München)	2017	23	42.8-47.1	*	↘
22.	Koke Resurrección (Atlético Madrid)	2019	23	41.2-45.3	***	=
23.	Christian Eriksen (Tottenham)	2018	23	40.2-44.2	***	↗
24.	Romelu Lukaku (Everton)	2019	22	39.7-43.7	***	=
25.	Toni Kroos (Real Madrid)	2020	25	39.7-43.6	*	=
26.	Willian Borges (Chelsea)	2018	26	38.6-42.5	*	↗
27.	Álvaro Morata (Juventus)	2019	22	38.4-42.2	*	↗
28.	Sergio Busquets (Barcelona)	2019	26	38.1-41.9	*	↗
29.	David Silva (Manchester City)	2019	29	38.0-41.8	*	↗
30.	Edinson Cavani (PSG)	2018	28	37.7-41.5	**	=
31.	Ángel Di María (Manchester United)	2019	27	36.9-40.6	*	↘
32.	Kevin de Bruyne (Wolfsburg)	2019	23	36.7-40.4	***	↗
33.	Wayne Rooney (Manchester United)	2019	29	35.9-39.5	*	=
34.	Marco Verratti (PSG)	2019	22	35.8-39.4	*	↗
35.	Nemanja Matić (Chelsea)	2019	26	35.6-39.2	*	↗
36.	Robert Lewandowski (Bayern München)	2019	26	35.5-39.1	*	↘
37.	Alexandre Lacazette (Lyon)	2018	24	35.5-39.1	***	↗
38.	Thomas Müller (Bayern München)	2019	25	35.3-38.8	*	=
39.	Manuel Neuer (Bayern München)	2019	29	34.3-37.7	*	=
40.	Mesut Özil (Arsenal)	2018	26	34.1-37.6	**	=
41.	Gonzalo Higuaín (Napoli)	2018	27	34.1-37.5	***	=
42.	Ross Barkley (Everton)	2018	21	33.6-37.0	***	=
43.	Yaya Touré (Manchester City)	2017	32	33.3-36.6	*	=
44.	Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain (Arsenal)	2018	21	33.2-36.5	**	↗
45.	Jérôme Boateng (Bayern München)	2018	26	32.4-35.6	*	=
46.	Santi Cazorla (Arsenal)	2017	30	32.2-35.4	**	↗
47.	Danny Welbeck (Arsenal)	2019	24	32.1-35.3	**	↗
48.	Jordan Henderson (Liverpool)	2020	24	31.9-35.1	***	↗
49.	Aaron Ramsey (Arsenal)	2019	24	31.8-35.0	**	↗
50.	Miralem Pjanić (Roma)	2018	25	31.7-34.9	***	=

Probabilities : * low / ** intermediate / *** high

Evolution : compared to January 2015

Figure 3b: The 100 big-5 league players with the highest transfer values

		Contract	Age	Value	Probability	Evolution
51.	Sadio Mané (Southampton)	2018	23	31.4-34.5	**	↗
52.	André Gomes (Valencia)	2019	21	31.3-34.5	**	↗
53.	Emre Can (Liverpool)	2019	21	30.7-33.8	*	↗
54.	Felipe Anderson (Lazio)	2020	22	30.2-33.2	**	↗
55.	Gerard Piqué (Barcelona)	2019	28	29.9-32.9	*	↗
56.	Lucas Moura (PSG)	2019	22	29.8-32.8	*	=
57.	Mateo Kovačić (Internazionale)	2019	21	29.4-32.4	**	=
58.	Arturo Vidal (Juventus)	2017	28	29.2-32.1	**	=
59.	Juan Mata (Manchester United)	2018	27	28.7-31.6	*	=
60.	Jack Wilshere (Arsenal)	2018	23	28.5-31.4	**	=
61.	Alessandro Florenzi (Roma)	2019	24	28.1-31.0	**	↗
62.	Juan Cuadrado (Chelsea)	2019	27	28.0-30.8	*	=
63.	David Alaba (Bayern München)	2018	22	27.9-30.7	*	=
64.	Ivan Rakitić (Barcelona)	2019	27	27.7-30.5	*	=
65.	Raphaël Varane (Real Madrid)	2020	22	27.3-30.0	*	↗
66.	Marco Reus (Dortmund)	2019	26	26.9-29.6	**	↘
67.	Daniel Carvajal (Real Madrid)	2019	23	26.2-28.8	*	↗
69.	Mats Hummels (Dortmund)	2017	26	26.1-28.7	***	=
68.	Mauro Icardi (Internazionale)	2019	22	26.1-28.7	***	↗
70.	Nabil Fekir (Lyon)	2019	21	26.0-28.6	***	↗
71.	Sergio Ramos (Real Madrid)	2017	29	25.8-28.4	**	↘
72.	Chris Smalling (Manchester United)	2019	25	25.4-28.0	*	↗
73.	Olivier Giroud (Arsenal)	2018	28	25.4-27.9	***	↗
74.	Vincent Kompany (Manchester City)	2019	29	25.3-27.8	*	↘
75.	Carlos Tévez (Juventus)	2016	31	25.3-27.8	*	↗
77.	Andrés Iniesta (Barcelona)	2018	31	24.8-27.3	*	↘
76.	Marquinhos Aoás (PSG)	2019	21	24.8-27.3	*	↗
78.	Rodrigo Moreno (Valencia)	2019	24	24.8-27.3	***	↗
79.	Marcelo Vieira (Real Madrid)	2018	27	24.3-26.7	*	↗
80.	Wilfried Bony (Manchester City)	2019	26	24.2-26.6	**	=
81.	José María Callejón (Napoli)	2018	28	23.7-26.1	***	=
82.	Leonardo Bonucci (Juventus)	2017	28	23.7-26.1	*	=
83.	Juan Bernat (Bayern München)	2019	22	23.7-26.1	*	↗
84.	Nabil Bentaleb (Tottenham)	2018	20	23.6-26.0	**	↗
85.	Calum Chambers (Arsenal)	2020	20	23.6-26.0	*	=
86.	Thiago Silva (PSG)	2018	30	23.5-25.9	*	=
87.	Karim Bellarabi (Leverkusen)	2020	25	23.5-25.8	***	↗
88.	César Azpilicueta (Chelsea)	2019	25	23.3-25.6	*	=
89.	Ricardo Rodríguez (Wolfsburg)	2019	22	23.2-25.5	*	↗
90.	Heung-Min Son (Leverkusen)	2018	22	23.2-25.5	***	↗
91.	Kurt Zouma (Chelsea)	2019	20	23.0-25.3	*	↗
92.	Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool)	2019	25	22.7-25.0	*	=
93.	Pedro Rodríguez (Barcelona)	2019	27	22.6-24.9	*	↗
94.	Luka Modrić (Real Madrid)	2018	29	22.3-24.6	*	↘
95.	David de Gea (Manchester United)	2016	24	22.3-24.5	**	↗
96.	Carlos Vela (Real Sociedad)	2018	26	22.3-24.5	**	↘
97.	Daley Blind (Manchester United)	2018	25	22.1-24.3	*	↗
98.	Radja Nainggolan (Roma)	2018	27	21.9-24.1	***	=
99.	Luiz Fernandinho (Manchester City)	2017	30	21.9-24.1	*	=
100.	Antonio Candreva (Lazio)	2019	28	21.8-24.0	***	=

Probabilities : * low / ** intermediate / *** high

Evolution : compared to January 2015

4. The bargains

Players at the end of contract represent 15% of footballers having played for a big-5 club during the second half of the 2014/15 season[4]. Most of them have only played sporadically. However, 72 players whose contract comes to an end on 30th June of this year were fielded for more than 60% of minutes played over the course of the season. The list below presents the best performing among them.

Players are ranked according to game statistics measured in six key areas of the game identified by the CIES Football Observatory academic team[5]. The best-ranked footballer whose contract ends at the end of this month is Dani Alves: 1st among full backs. From a strictly sporting point of view, despite being aged 32, our analysis shows that the Brazilian is a very interesting player for many big-5 league teams, including the most competitive ones.

Among the 15 best performing players at the end of contract, the youngest is André Ayew, followed by Alberto Bueno (already signed by FC Porto). Three other footballers in the top 15 have not yet celebrated their 30th birthday: Ludovic Baal, Christian Fuchs (recruited by Leicester City) and Ignazio Abate.

[4] Players on loan are not included.
[5] For a detailed explanation of the CIES Football Observatory approach for performance analysis, please refer to issue 5 of the Monthly Report.

Figure 4: Best performing players at the end of contract

	Position	Ranking (position)	Age
1. Dani Alves (Barcelona)	FB	1	32
2. Jérémy Morel (Marseille)	CB	15	31
3. Ludovic Baal (Lens)	FB	19	29
4. André Ayew (Marseille)	AM	34	25
5. Ricardo Carvalho (Monaco)	CB	39	37
6. Rod Fanni (Marseille)	FB	40	33
7. Christian Fuchs (Schalke)	FB	41	29
8. Ignazio Abate (Milan)	FB	42	28
9. Christian Maggio (Napoli)	FB	44	33
10. Nigel de Jong (Milan)	DM	48	30
11. Franco Brienza (Cesena)	AM	50	36
12. Michael Krohn-Dehli (Celta Vigo)	AM	61	32
13. Alberto Bueno (Rayo Vallecano)	FW	62	27
14. Diego Colotto (Espanyol)	CB	65	34
15. Stefano Mauri (Lazio)	AM	68	35

Postes : FB: Full back / CB: Center back / DM: défensive midfielder / AM: Attacking midfielder / FW: Foward

The best performing players whose contract expires in June 2016 also represent good value for money. Indeed, their contractual situation favors clubs interested in eventual transfer negotiations. Among the best-ranked footballers according to our performance indicators, we find several players over thirty years of age (Xabi Alonso, Evra, Maxwell, Tévez, Ibrahimović and Vidić)

Apart from Paulo Dybala (already transferred to Juventus), the youngest players in the list of potential bargains are Nicolas N'Koulou, Pablo Piatti, Lars Stindl (already signed by Borussia Mönchengladbach) and Dani Parejo. If they do not extend their contract with their club, Claudio Marchisio, Antonio Balzano, Romain Hamouma and Olivier Veigneau could also be on the to-buy list for clubs who wish to strengthen their squads.

Figure 5:   Best performing players with one year of contract remaining

		Position	Ranking (position)	Age	Valeur
1.	Xabi Alonso (Bayern München)	DM	3	33	5.1-5.6
2.	Claudio Marchisio (Juventus)	DM	5	29	16.7-18.4
3.	Patrice Evra (Juventus)	FB	6	34	2.3-2.5
4.	Nicolas N'Koulou (Marseille)	Dc	8	25	5.0-5.5
5.	Carlos Tévez (Juventus)	FW	11	31	25.3-27.8
6.	Maxwell Scherrer (PSG)	FB	12	33	2.0-2.2
7.	Pablo Piatti (Valencia)	FW	17	26	7.2-7.9
8.	Lars Stindl (Hannover)	AM	17	26	2.7-3.0
9.	Paulo Dybala (Palermo)	FW	19	21	18.3-20.1
10.	Dani Parejo (Valencia)	DM	19	26	9.8-10.7
11.	Zlatan Ibrahimović (PSG)	FW	20	33	11.0-12.1
12.	Nemanja Vidić (Internazionale)	CB	20	33	2.3-2.5
13.	Antonio Balzano (Cagliari)	FB	20	28	1.1-1.2
14.	Romain Hamouma (St-Etienne)	AM	20	28	2.5-2.8
15.	Olivier Veigneau (Nantes)	FB	21	29	0.7-0.8

Postes : FB: Full back / CB: Center back / DM: défensive midfielder / AM: Attacking midfielder / FW: Foward

Appendix 1: Aggregated transfer values, by club

		Million €				Million €
1.	Barcelona (ESP)	682.0		50.	Sunderland (ENG)	69.7
2.	Chelsea (ENG)	617.8		51.	Bordeaux (FRA)	67.7
3.	Real Madrid (ESP)	545.1		52.	WBA (ENG)	66.8
4.	Arsenal (ENG)	466.1		53.	St-Etienne (FRA)	57.2
5.	Liverpool (ENG)	381.5		54.	Espanyol (ESP)	55.0
6.	Bayern München (GER)	378.9		55.	Lille (FRA)	54.8
7.	Manchester City (ENG)	374.7		56.	Toulouse (FRA)	53.4
8.	Manchester United (ENG)	337.7		57.	Lorient (FRA)	53.3
9.	Tottenham (ENG)	313.9		58.	Werder Bremen (GER)	51.1
10.	Juventus (ITA)	308.3		59.	Atalanta (ITA)	49.8
11.	PSG (FRA)	285.8		60.	Rennes (FRA)	49.3
12.	Atlético Madrid (ESP)	255.1		61.	Köln (GER)	48.6
13.	Napoli (ITA)	231.8		62.	Stuttgart (GER)	46.5
14.	Roma (ITA)	220.6		63.	Mainz (GER)	45.5
15.	Southampton (ENG)	197.6		64.	Hull City (ENG)	44.0
16.	Everton (ENG)	185.9		65.	QPR (ENG)	41.3
17.	Dortmund (GER)	175.8		66.	Frankfurt (GER)	40.0
18.	Valencia (ESP)	171.5		67.	Burnley (ENG)	39.8
19.	Internazionale (ITA)	168.9		68.	Augsburg (GER)	39.4
20.	Wolfsburg (GER)	162.1		69.	Empoli (ITA)	38.8
21.	Leverkusen (GER)	155.7		70.	Freiburg (GER)	38.7
.	Lazio (ITA)	155.7		71.	Hannover (GER)	36.7
23.	Swansea (ENG)	147.8		72.	Cagliari (ITA)	36.0
24.	Monaco (FRA)	146.0		73.	Montpellier (FRA)	35.6
25.	Lyon (FRA)	143.1		74.	Hertha Berlin (GER)	34.7
26.	Sevilla (ESP)	129.9		75.	Nice (FRA)	33.9
27.	Athletic Bilbao (ESP)	123.1		76.	Nantes (FRA)	33.1
28.	Schalke (GER)	113.3		77.	Granada (ESP)	33.0
29.	M'gladbach (GER)	108.9		78.	Reims (FRA)	27.2
30.	Newcastle (ENG)	106.9		79.	Guingamp (FRA)	26.6
31.	Fiorentina (ITA)	104.5		80.	Parma (ITA)	26.4
32.	Milan (ITA)	102.8		81.	Hamburg (GER)	25.9
33.	Villarreal (ESP)	100.9		82.	Levante (ESP)	23.1
34.	Marseille (FRA)	97.7		83.	Caen (FRA)	22.6
35.	Aston Villa (ENG)	94.6		84.	Bastia (FRA)	22.1
36.	Real Sociedad (ESP)	90.4		85.	Metz (FRA)	20.5
37.	Palermo (ITA)	87.6		86.	Elche (ESP)	19.9
38.	Stoke City (ENG)	85.1		87.	Chievo (ITA)	19.7
39.	West Ham (ENG)	84.5		88.	Cesena (ITA)	17.7
40.	Crystal Palace (ENG)	82.0		89.	Getafe (ESP)	17.4
41.	Leicester (ENG)	81.8		90.	Hellas Verona (ITA)	17.0
.	Torino (ITA)	81.8		91.	Paderborn (GER)	16.3
43.	Udinese (ITA)	81.2		92.	Lens (FRA)	15.7
44.	Celta Vigo (ESP)	79.3		93.	Almería (ESP)	14.8
45.	Hoffenheim (GER)	76.0		94.	Rayo Vallecano (ESP)	14.6
46.	Sampdoria (ITA)	75.7		95.	Deportivo La Corunã (ESP)	12.5
47.	Sassuolo (ITA)	73.4		96.	Evian TG (FRA)	12.2
48.	Málaga (ESP)	71.3		97.	Eibar (ESP)	11.9
49.	Genoa (ITA)	71.1		98.	Córdoba (ESP)	8.8