



Collin's Corner

Baseball's Greatest Home Run Seasons

by Lee Collin
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Since 1920, the year that Babe Ruth ushered in the long ball era, a season of 40 or more home runs has been accomplished 237 times by 107 different hitters.

Of all the 40-homer sluggers, only eight enjoyed a season in which they had an AB-to-HR ratio of less than 10. In other words, these eight super sluggers managed to hit one homer per every 9.99 or fewer official at-bats over an entire season. With his phenomenal 2001 season, Barry Bonds, who set single-season records for home runs (73), slugging percentage (.863) and walks (177), also had the best season ratio of at-bats to home runs (6.52) ever.

The original Sultan of Swat, Babe Ruth, appears on the list four times as does Mark McGwire. 2001 marked Sammy Sosa's third season with an AB-to-HR ratio under 10.

All-time career home run king Henry Aaron became the first National League player to achieve an AB-to-HR ratio of under 10 in 1973 when, at the age of 39, he hit 40 homers in 392 at-bats, the only time in Aaron's career that he averaged a homer per less than 10 at-bats.

Baseball's Greatest Home Run Seasons: Players With Less Than 10 AB per HR *(Minimum of 40 HRs in a Season)*

Year	Name	Age	Team	AB	BB	HR	AB:HR
2001	Barry Bonds	37	San Francisco	476	177	73	6.52
1998	Mark McGwire	35	St. Louis	509	162	70	7.27
1999	Mark McGwire	36	St. Louis	521	133	65	8.01
1996	Mark McGwire	33	St. Louis	423	116	52	8.13
1920	Babe Ruth	25	New York	458	150	54	8.48
1927	Babe Ruth	32	New York	540	137	60	9.00
2001	Sammy Sosa	34	Chicago	577	116	64	9.01
1921	Babe Ruth	26	New York	540	145	59	9.15
1997	Mark McGwire	34	St. Louis	540	101	58	9.31
1961	Mickey Mantle	30	New York	514	126	54	9.51
1938	Hank Greenberg	27	Detroit	556	119	58	9.58
1961	Roger Maris	27	New York	590	94	61	9.67
1998	Sammy Sosa	30	Chicago	643	73	66	9.74
1973	Hank Aaron	39	Atlanta	392	68	40	9.79
2000	Barry Bonds	36	San Francisco	480	117	49	9.79
1928	Babe Ruth	33	New York	536	137	54	9.92
1999	Sammy Sosa	31	Chicago	625	78	63	9.92

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Lee Collin

Member, Society for American Baseball Research

