

**HOW OFTEN DO TEAMS WITH
THE BEST REGULAR-SEASON WINNING PERCENTAGE
CAPTURE THE POSTSEASON CHAMPIONSHIP?**

PART III: NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION, 1946-2020

compiled by

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Season	Team with the Best Regular-Season Winning Percentage	Postseason Champion	Same-Different
1946-1947 ¹	Washington Capitols	Philadelphia Warriors	0-1
1947-1948	St. Louis Bombers	Baltimore Bullets	0-2
1948-1949	Rochester Royals	Minneapolis Lakers	0-3
1949-1950	Syracuse Nationals	Minneapolis Lakers	0-4
1950-1951	Minneapolis Lakers	Rochester Royals	0-5
1951-1952	Rochester Royals	Minneapolis Lakers	0-6
1952-1953	Minneapolis Lakers	Minneapolis Lakers	1-6
1953-1954	Minneapolis Lakers	Minneapolis Lakers	2-6
1954-1955	Ft. Wayne Pistons and Syracuse Nationals ²	Syracuse Nationals	3-6
1955-1956	Philadelphia Warriors	Philadelphia Warriors	4-6
1956-1957	Boston Celtics	Boston Celtics	5-6
1957-1958	Boston Celtics	St. Louis Hawks	5-7
1958-1959	Boston Celtics	Boston Celtics	6-7
1959-1960	Boston Celtics	Boston Celtics	7-7
1960-1961	Boston Celtics	Boston Celtics	8-7
1961-1962	Boston Celtics	Boston Celtics	9-7
1962-1963	Boston Celtics	Boston Celtics	10-7
1963-1964	Boston Celtics	Boston Celtics	11-7
1964-1965	Boston Celtics	Boston Celtics	12-7
1965-1966	Philadelphia 76ers	Boston Celtics	12-8
1966-1967	Philadelphia 76ers	Philadelphia 76ers	13-8
1967-1968	Philadelphia 76ers	Boston Celtics	13-9
1968-1969	Baltimore Bullets	Boston Celtics	13-10
1969-1970	New York Knicks	New York Knicks	14-10
1970-1971	Milwaukee Bucks	Milwaukee Bucks	15-10
1971-1972	Los Angeles Lakers	Los Angeles Lakers	16-10
1972-1973	Boston Celtics	New York Knicks	16-11
1973-1974	Milwaukee Bucks	Boston Celtics	16-12

Season	Team with the Best Regular-Season Winning Percentage	Postseason Champion	Same-Different
1974-1975	Boston Celtics and Washington Bullets	Golden State Warriors	16-13
1975-1976	Golden State Warriors	Boston Celtics	16-14
1976-1977	Los Angeles Lakers	Portland Trailblazers	16-15
1977-1978	Portland Trail Blazers	Washington Bullets	16-16
1978-1979	Washington Bullets	Seattle SuperSonics	16-17
1979-1980	Boston Celtics	Los Angeles Lakers	16-18
1980-1981	Boston Celtics and Philadelphia 76ers	Boston Celtics	17-18
1981-1982	Boston Celtics	Los Angeles Lakers	17-19
1982-1983	Philadelphia 76ers	Philadelphia 76ers	18-19
1983-1984	Boston Celtics	Boston Celtics	19-19
1984-1985	Boston Celtics	Los Angeles Lakers	19-20
1985-1986	Boston Celtics	Boston Celtics	20-10
1986-1987	Los Angeles Lakers	Los Angeles Lakers	21-20
1987-1988	Los Angeles Lakers	Los Angeles Lakers	22-20
1988-1989	Detroit Pistons	Detroit Pistons	23-20
1989-1990	Los Angeles Lakers	Detroit Pistons	23-21
1990-1991	Portland Trail Blazers	Chicago Bulls	23-22
1991-1992	Chicago Bulls	Chicago Bulls	24-22
1992-1993	Phoenix Suns	Chicago Bulls	24-23
1993-1994	Seattle SuperSonics	Houston Rockets	24-24
1994-1995	San Antonio Spurs	Houston Rockets	24-25
1995-1996	Chicago Bulls	Chicago Bulls	25-25
1996-1997	Chicago Bulls	Chicago Bulls	26-25
1997-1998	Chicago Bulls and Utah Jazz	Chicago Bulls	27-25
1998-1999	San Antonio Spurs and Utah Jazz	San Antonio Spurs	28-25
1999-2000	Los Angeles Lakers	Los Angeles Lakers	29-25
2000-2001	San Antonio Spurs	Los Angeles Lakers	29-26
2001-2002	Sacramento Kings	Los Angeles Lakers	29-27
2002-2003	Dallas Mavericks and San Antonio Spurs	San Antonio Spurs	30-27
2003-2004	Indiana Pacers	Detroit Pistons	30-28
2004-2005	Phoenix Suns	San Antonio Spurs	30-29
2005-2006	Detroit Pistons	Miami Heat	30-30
2006-2007	Dallas Mavericks	San Antonio Spurs	30-31
2007-2008	Boston Celtics	Boston Celtics	31-31
2008-2009	Cleveland Cavaliers	Los Angeles Lakers	31-32
2009-2010	Cleveland Cavaliers	Los Angeles Lakers	31-33
2010-2011	Chicago Bulls	Dallas Mavericks	31-34

Season	Team with the Best Regular-Season Winning Percentage	Postseason Champion	Same-Different
2011-2012	Chicago Bulls and San Antonio Spurs	Miami Heat	31-35
2012-2013	Miami Heat	Miami Heat	32-35
2013-2014	San Antonio Spurs	San Antonio Spurs	33-35
2014-2015	Golden State Warriors	Golden State Warriors	34-35
2015-2016	Golden State Warriors	Cleveland Cavaliers	34-36
2016-2017	Golden State Warriors	Golden State Warriors	35-36
2017-2018	Houston Rockets	Golden State Warriors	35-37
2018-2019	Milwaukee Bucks	Toronto Raptors	35-38
2019-2020	Milwaukee Bucks	Los Angeles Lakers	35-39

¹The National Basketball Association (NBA) was formed when the National Basketball League (NBL) combined with the Basketball Association of America (BAA) on August 3, 1949. However, the NBA views its history beginning with the BAA and recognizes the union of the two leagues as an expansion of the BAA rather than a merger.

²If the postseason champion tied for the best regular-season winning percentage, the “Same-Different” result is considered to be “Same.”