

# History of NFL's Single Season Rushing Yardage Record | Histowiki

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**1970:** Larry Brown Washington Redskins 1125, 14 game season, First season of AFL-NFL merger

**1971:** Floyd Little Denver Broncos 1133

**1972:** O. J. Simpson Buffalo Bills 1251

**1973:** O. J. Simpson Buffalo Bills 2003 First 2,000-yard NFL season; NFL record 143.1 yards per game

**1974:** Otis Armstrong Denver Broncos 1407

**1975:** O. J. Simpson Buffalo Bills 1817

**1976:** O. J. Simpson Buffalo Bills 1503

**1977:** Walter Payton Chicago Bears 1852

**1978:** Earl Campbell Houston Oilers 1450, 15 games played, (first 15 game season) Rookie season; First NFL season with regular-season games

**1979:** Earl Campbell Houston Oilers 1697

**1980:** Earl Campbell Houston Oilers 1934

**1981:** George Rogers New Orleans Saints 1674, Rookie season

**1982:** Freeman McNeil New York Jets 786, 9 games played\* \*Strike-shortened season

**1983:** Eric Dickerson Los Angeles Rams 1808, Rookie season

**1984:** ***Eric Dickerson***, RB for the Rams, beats O.J. Simpson's 1973 mark of 2,003 with his own yardage mark of **2,105** (379 rushes, **5.6 yards per carry average**, 14 touchdowns, 21 receptions for 139) That same year, Dan Marino had 5,084 yards passing, Roy Green had 1,555 yards receiving, and Mark Gastineau had 22 sacks.

**1985:** Marcus Allen Los Angeles Raiders 1759

**1986:** Eric Dickerson Los Angeles Rams 1821, Only rushing champion with 400+ carries (404)

**1987:** Charles White Los Angeles Rams 1374, 15 games played,\* \*Strike-shortened season; White's only season with more than 350 yards rushing[11]

**1988:** Eric Dickerson Indianapolis Colts 1659,

**1989:** Christian Okoye Kansas City Chiefs 1480, 15 games played

**1990:** Barry Sanders Detroit Lions 1304

**1991:** Emmitt Smith Dallas Cowboys 1563

**1992:** Emmitt Smith Dallas Cowboys[12] 1713, First Rushing Champion to win Super Bowl

**1993:** Emmitt Smith Dallas Cowboys[13] 1486, 14 game played after missing first two games over contract dispute

**1994:** Barry Sanders Detroit Lions 1883

**1995:** Emmitt Smith Dallas Cowboys[14] 1773

**1996:** Barry Sanders Detroit Lions 1553

**1997:** Barry Sanders Detroit Lions 2053, Highest rushing total of the 1990s

**1998:** Terrell Davis Denver Broncos[15] 2008, Second consecutive season with 2,000-yard rusher.

**1999:** Edgerrin James Indianapolis Colts 1553, Rookie season

**2000:** Edgerrin James Indianapolis Colts 1709

**2001:** Priest Holmes Kansas City Chiefs 1555

**2002:** Ricky Williams Miami Dolphins 1853



**2003:** Jamal Lewis Baltimore Ravens 2066, Highest rushing total of the 2000s.  
**2004:** Curtis Martin New York Jets 1697, Only rushing champion to win after 30th birthday (31)  
**2005:** Shaun Alexander Seattle Seahawks 1880  
**2006:** LaDainian Tomlinson San Diego Chargers 1815, Also set record for rush TDs (28)  
**2006: LaDainian Tomlinson** has one of the best statistical seasons for a running back ever, **1815 yards rushing (5.2 yards per carry)** with 28 rushing touchdowns, and 508 receiving yards with 3 receiving touchdowns. That's 2,323 yards! (16 game season)  
**2008:** Adrian Peterson Minnesota Vikings 1760, NFC's last rushing champion  
**2009:** Chris Johnson Tennessee Titans 2006, Also set NFL record for yards from scrimmage (2,509)  
**2010:** Arian Foster Houston Texans 1616, Texans' first rushing champion  
**2011:** Maurice Jones-Drew Jacksonville Jaguars 1606, Jaguars' first rushing champion  
**2012:** Adrian Peterson Minnesota Vikings finishes with 2097, only 9 yards short of record. (348 attempts for a **6.0 yards per carry average**, 12 touchdowns with 40 receptions for 217 yards, no receiving touchdowns). Peterson amassed 2,314 all-purpose yards from scrimmage, tying Marcus Allen for the eighth-highest total ever.

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