

## MLB Transactions (Retrosheet.org)

December 26, 2014

I use the transaction text file from retrosheet.org and link to Sean Lahman's Master Table and I export the transactions for all seasons, into one file. The exports are in TEXT and EXCEL formats.

<http://www.retrosheet.org/transactions/index.html>

Here's the format of each record in the transaction database.

```
primary-date,  
time,  
approximate-indicator,  
secondary-date,  
approximate-indicator (for secondary-date),  
transaction-ID,  
player,  
type,  
from-team,  
from-league,  
to-team,  
to-league,  
draft-type,  
draft-round,  
pick-number,  
info
```

primary-date - "yyyymmdd"

Where:

```
yyyy - is the year  
mm - is a two-digit month (01-12)  
dd - is a two-digit day (01-31)
```

A "00" in the day field means that that level of precision is not known.

A "0000" in the month AND day field means that the transaction occurred sometime prior to the start of the season. Such a transaction could have taken place in the latter part of the previous year as well.

time - an optional one digit time indicator:

empty (default) - transaction occurred before all games

1 - transaction occurred after the from-team's first or only game of the day and before the to-team's last or only game of the day.

2 - transaction occurred after all games

this field may also be used in off-season transactions to establish an order between different transactions involving the same players.

approximate-indicator - "@" if the date is approximate.

This field is not set simply if the month or day is not known.

It is only used if some information is provided (a non-zero month or day) which is only a guess.

secondary-date - "yyyymmdd"

Same format as above.

At present this is used for "Da" types to indicate the player's

signing date (the primary-date field for these transactions contains the date of the start of the draft).

transaction-id - a number identifying the transaction

player - One of the following:

- an eight character player ID
- a string containing the first and last name of players who haven't reached the major leagues
- empty (no player is associated with the record)

type - one of the following

- A - assigned from one team to another without compensation
- C - conditional deal
- Cr - returned to original team after conditional deal
- D - rule 5 draft pick
- Da - amateur draft pick
- Df - first year draft pick
- Dm - minor league draft pick
- Dn - selected in amateur draft but did not sign
- Dr - returned to original team after draft selection
- Ds - special draft pick
- Dv - amateur draft pick voided
- F - free agent signing
- Fa - amateur free agent signing
- Fb - amateur free agent "bonus baby" signing under the 1953-57 rule requiring player to stay on ML roster
- Fc - free agent compensation pick
- Fg - free agent granted
- Fo - free agent signing with first ML team
- Fv - free agent signing voided
- Hb - went on the bereavement list
- Hbr - came off the bereavement list
- Hd - declared ineligible
- Hdr - reinstated from the ineligible list
- Hf - demoted to the minor league
- Hfr - promoted from the minor league
- Hh - held out
- Hhr - ended hold out
- Hi - went on the disabled list
- Hir - came off the disabled list
- Hm - went into military service
- Hmr - returned from military service
- Hs - suspended
- Hsr - reinstated after a suspension
- Hu - unavailable but not on DL
- Hur - returned from being unavailable
- Hv - voluntariness retired
- Hvr - unretired
- J - jumped teams
- Jr - returned to original team after jumping
- L - loaned to another team
- Lr - returned to original team after loan
- M - obtained rights when entering into working agreement with minor league team
- Mr - rights returned when working agreement with minor league team ended
- P - purchase
- Pr - returned to original team after purchase
- Pv - purchase voided

R - release  
 T - trade  
 Tn - traded but refused to report  
 Tp - added to trade (usually because one of the original players refused to report or retired)  
 Tr - returned to original team after trade  
 Tv - trade voided  
 U - unknown (could have been two separate transactions)  
 Vg - player assigned to league control  
 V - player purchased or assigned to team from league  
 W - waiver pick  
 Wf - first year waiver pick  
 Wr - returned to original team after waiver pick  
 Wv - waiver pick voided  
 X - expansion draft  
 Xp - added as expansion pick at a later date  
 Z - voluntarily retired  
 Zr - returned from voluntarily retired list  
 from-team - either a three character major league team abbreviation or the name of an independent minor league team indicating where the player came from. Some transactions (for example, "Da" will not have a from-team (or league).  
 from-league - either a two character major league abbreviation or the name of a minor league in parenthesis.  
 to-team - either a three character major league team abbreviation or the name of an independent minor league team indicating where the player went to. Some transactions (for example, "Fg" will not have a to-team (or league).  
 to-league - either a two character major league abbreviation or the name of a minor league in parenthesis.  
 draft-type - (Da, Dn and Dv types only) the type of amateur draft  
     The default is the regular draft  
     S - secondary phase (or secondary phase delayed)  
     A - secondary phase active  
     L - American Legion  
     D - Dominican draft  
 draft-round - (Da, Dn and Dv types only) the round of the amateur draft that the player was selected in  
 pick-number - For expansion drafts, this contain the number of the pick. For amateur drafts, this will contain the number of the selection for first round picks.  
 info - This contain information associated with the transaction. For trades, this field could contain money sent in addition to players. For player sales, this could contain the sale amount.

If a "F" transaction has both a from and a to team, there will be no corresponding "Fg" transactions. These two-team "F" transactions are used in eras where players were not reserved and so were free to sign with whoever those at the end of each contract.