

Indy 500 Racing Facts

Interested in car racing? Here are a few facts concerning the Indy 500 Race:

- The Indianapolis 500 is the original 500-mile auto race, predating any other existing 500 by nearly fifty years. It's not only the most famous race in America, but is the most celebrated around the world. The Indy 500 was first run in 1911.
- The distance around one lap of the Indianapolis course is two and one-half miles per lap.
- It takes a driver forty seconds to negotiate one full lap at a speed of exactly 225 miles per hour.
- Traditionally, thirty-three cars start in the 500.
- The Speedway was nicknamed "The Brickyard," because the track was once paved with bricks.
- For more than fifty years, the winning driver has pulled into Victory Lane and taken a drink of milk.
- The Indianapolis Motor Speedway is not located in Indianapolis. It's in Speedway, Indiana, a community incorporated in 1926, with its own town board, police and fire departments, schools systems, and water company.
- An effective Indy pit stop (to pump forty gallons of fuel, change four wheels, and many any minor adjustment) takes about fifteen seconds.
- Indy cars do not run on gasoline. Since 1964, they've used methanol, a wood-based alcohol.
- If an Indy Car engine were installed in the average riding lawn mower, it could cut a half-acre lawn in about 5.6 seconds.
- The winning time at the 1990 Indy was more than four hours faster than the 1911 Indy's winning time of six hours, forty-two minutes.
- At 200 miles per hour, an Indy driver can cover the length of a football field in less than one second.
- While eight different drivers named Jones have driven in at least one 500 race (none of which are related), no starting field has ever included a driver named Smith.
- Buddy Lazier was eliminated after only one lap in the 1991 Indy and received \$162,690 in prize money. Ernie Ansterberg, on the other hand, pulled out after two laps in 1924 and was awarded the hefty sum of \$5.25.
- At 224 miles per hour, an Indy Car is traveling about 100 miles faster than an average Air Force fighter jet at takeoff.

Indianapolis 500 Results

YEAR	DRIVER	ENGINE	CYLINDERS	MPH AVERAGE
1911	Ray Harroun	Marmon Wasp	6	74.69
1912	Joe Dawson	National	4	78.72
1913	Jules Goux	Peugeot	4	97.933
1914	Rene Thomas	Delage	4	82.47
1915	Ralph DePalma	Mercedes	4	89.84
1916	Dario Resta	Peugeot	4	84.00*(1)
1919	Howard Wilcox	Peugeot	4	88.05
1920	Gaston Chevrolet	Monroe	4	88.62
1921	Gaston Miltono	Frontenac	4	89.62
1922	Jimmy Murphy	Miller	8	94.48

1923	Tommy Milton	Miller	8	90.95
1924	L.L. Corum	Duesenberg	8	98.23
1925	Peter Depaolo	Duesenberg	8	101.13
1926	Frank Lockhart	Miller	8	95.904*(2)
1927	George Souders	Duesenberg	8	97.545
1928	Louis Meyer	Miller	8	100.448
1931	Louis Schneider	Miller	8	96.629
1932	Fred Frame	Miller	8	104.144
1933	Louis Meyer	Miller	8	104.162
1934	William Cummings	Offenhauser	4	104.863
1935	Kelly Petillo	Offenhauser	4	106.240
1936	Louis Meyer	Offenhauser	4	109.069
1937	Wilbur Shaw	Offenhauser	4	113.580
1938	Floyd Roberts	Offenhauser	4	117.200
1939	Wilbur Shaw	Masurati	8	115.035
1940	Wilbur Shaw	Maserati	8	114.277
1941	Floyd Davis	Offenhauser	4	115.117
1942-1945 Race not held (due to WWII)				
1946	George Robson	Thorne/Sparks	6	114.820
1947	Mauri Rose	Offenhauser	4	116.338
1948	Mauri Rose	Offenhauser	4	119.814
1949	Bill Holland	Offenhauser	4	121.320
1950	Johnnie Parsons	Offenhauser	4	124.002*(3)
1951	Lee Wallard	Offenhauser	4	126.244
1952	Troy Ruttman	Offenhauser	4	128.922
1953	Bill Vukovich	Offenhauser	4	128.740
1954	Bill Vukovich	Offenhauser	4	130.840
1955	Bob Sweikert	Offenhauser	4	128.209
1956	Pat Flaherty	Offenhauser	4	128.490
1957	Sam Hanks	Offenhauser	4	135.601
1958	Jim Bryan	Offenhauser	4	133.791
1959	Rodger Ward	Offenhauser	4	135.857
1960	Jim Rathmann	Offenhauser	4	138.767
1961	A.J. Foyt	Offenhauser	4	139.130
1962	Rodger Ward	Offenhauser	4	140.293
1963	Parnelli Jones	Offenhauser	4	143.137
1964	A.J. Foyt	Offenhauser	4	147.350
1965	Jimmy Clark	Ford	8	150.686
1966	Graham Hill	Ford	8	144.317
1967	A.J. Foyt	Ford	8	151.207
1968	Bobby Unser	Offenhauser	4	152.882
1969	Mario Andretti	Hawk-Ford	8	156.867
1970	Al Unser	Colt Ford	8	155.749
1971	Al Unser	Colt Ford	8	157.735
1972	Mark Donahue	Offenhauser	4	162.962*(4)
1973	Gordon Johncock	Offenhauser	4	159.036
1974	Johnny Rutherford	Offenhauser	4	158.589
1975	Bobby Unser	Meyer Drake	4	149.213*(5)
1976	Johnny Rutherford	Offenhauser	4	148.725*(6)
1977	A.J. Foyt	Coyote-Foyt	4	161.331
1978	Al Unser	Cosworth	8	161.363
1979	Rick Mears	Cosworth	8	158.889
1980	Johnny Rutherford	Chaparral	8	142.862
1981	Bobby Unser	Offenhauser	4	139.029
1982	Gordon Johncock	Cosworth	8	162.029
1983	Tom Sneva	Cosworth	8	162.117
1984	Rick Mears	Cosworth	8	162.962
1985	Danny Sullivan	Cosworth	8	152.982
1986	Bobby Rahal	Cosworth	8	170.722
1987	Al Unser	Cosworth	8	162.175
1988	Rick Mears	Chevy	8	144.809
1989	E. Fittipaldi	Chevy	8	144.809
1990	Arie Luyendyk	Chevy	8	185.984
1991	Rick Mears	Chevy	8	176.457
1992	Al Unser Jr.	Chevy	8	134.447
1993	Emerson Fittipaldi	NA	NA	157.207
1994	Al Unser Jr.	NA	NA	160.872
1995	Jacques Villeneuve	NA	NA	153.616
1996	Buddy Lazier	NA	NA	147.956
1997	Arie Luyendyk	NA	NA	145.827

1998	Eddie Cheever Jr.	NA	NA	145.155
1999	Kenny Brack	NA	NA	153.176
2000	Juan Montoya	NA	NA	167.496

* Due to rain, the race was shortened to:

- (1) 300 miles.
- (2) 400 miles.
- (3) 345 miles.
- (1) 332.5 miles.
- (4) 435 miles.
- (5) 255 miles.

The race record, as of 2000, belongs to Arie Luyendyk. He averaged 185.984 MPH in 1990.