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If you're a hockey card collector, you may have wondered how many companies are involved in producing these coveted pieces of sports memorabilia. While there are a few big players in the industry that most collectors are familiar with, the truth may surprise you. In this article, we'll explore the fascinating world of hockey card manufacturing and reveal just how many companies are actually involved in the process. First, we'll take a look at the history of hockey card collecting and how it has evolved over the years. From humble beginnings to a thriving industry, we'll explore the key milestones that have led to the popularity of these collectibles today. Next, we'll dive into the top companies dominating the hockey card industry, as well as some of the lesser-known manufacturers that still play a significant role. We'll also touch on some of the controversies and scandals that have rocked the hockey card world and what the future of production may hold. Are you ready to uncover the shocking truth about how many companies actually make hockey cards? Buckle up and get ready to explore this fascinating world with us.

The Rise of Hockey Card Collecting: A Brief History Hockey card collecting has been a beloved pastime for many for over a century, but it wasn't until the 1980s that the hobby truly exploded in popularity. With the rise of superstar players like Wayne Gretzky, hockey cards became a sought-after commodity for fans and collectors alike. But the origins of hockey card collecting can be traced back much further than that. See also [How Much Do Hockey Playoff Tickets Cost?](#) [\[Updated\]](#) The first hockey trading cards were produced in the early 1900s, but it wasn't until the 1950s that the industry really began to take off. Companies like Topps and Parkhurst dominated the market, and hockey card collecting became a popular hobby among kids and adults alike. Key Milestones in Hockey Card Collecting History 1900s: The first hockey trading cards are produced. 1950s: The industry begins to take off with the rise of companies like Topps and Parkhurst. 1980s: The hobby explodes in popularity with the rise of superstar players like Wayne Gretzky. The Dominant Players in Hockey Card Collecting Today, the hockey card market is dominated by a few key players, including Upper Deck, Panini, and Topps. These companies produce a wide range of cards, from basic sets to limited edition collector's items. But there are also many smaller manufacturers who play a significant role in the industry, producing unique and niche products that cater to specific types of collectors. From autographed cards to game-used memorabilia, there's no shortage of variety when it comes to hockey card collecting. Digital: As technology continues to advance, more and more collectors are turning to digital cards as a way to expand their collections. Sustainability: With a growing focus on sustainability, some manufacturers are exploring eco-friendly alternatives to traditional card production methods. The hockey card industry has been dominated by a handful of major players for decades. These companies have been at the forefront of producing high-quality, collectible cards that are coveted by fans around the world. Here are the top companies that have made a name for themselves in the hockey card industry. See also [What Is Dump and Change in Hockey?](#) [Everything You Need to Know](#)Upper Deck Upper Deck's Impact on the Hockey Card Industry Upper Deck has been a major player in the hockey card industry since it was founded in 1988. The company is known for producing high-quality, premium cards that are highly sought after by collectors. Upper Deck has also been at the forefront of introducing new and innovative technologies to the industry, such as holographic foil and the use of game-used memorabilia in its cards. Panini America Panini America's Role in the Hockey Card Industry Panini America entered the hockey card industry in 2009, but it has quickly made a name for itself with its high-quality cards and unique designs. The company is known for its use of innovative printing techniques and the inclusion of rare autographs and memorabilia in its cards. Panini America has also secured exclusive licensing deals with the NHL and NHLPA, giving it a competitive edge in the industry. Topps Topps has been a major player in the sports card industry since it was founded in 1938. The company entered the hockey card market in the 1950s and has since become known for its high-quality, vintage cards. Topps is also known for its popular insert sets and the inclusion of rare autographs and memorabilia in its cards. These companies have made a significant impact on the hockey card industry, and their cards are highly sought after by collectors around the world. Whether you're a long-time collector or just getting started, these companies offer a wide range of cards that are sure to satisfy any hockey fan's collecting needs. See also [How To Get A Hockey Butt?](#) [\[Expert Guide\]](#)The Surprising Number of Lesser-Known Hockey Card Manufacturers Hockey card collecting has been a beloved hobby for many fans for decades. While companies like Upper Deck and Panini dominate the industry, there are many lesser-known manufacturers that have created unique and valuable cards for collectors. One such manufacturer is Score, which produced cards in the 1990s and early 2000s. Score is known for its colorful designs and unique sets, including its "Dream Team" set featuring NHL legends and its "Hot Rookies" set showcasing up-and-coming players. Pro Set Pro Set was a major player in the hockey card industry during the 1990s. The company produced a variety of sets, including its popular "Stanley Cup Hologram" set, which featured a holographic image of the Stanley Cup on each card. Pro Set also produced a set of cards featuring cartoon characters from the hit TV show "The Simpsons" dressed in hockey gear. O-Pee-Chee O-Pee-Chee was a Canadian company that produced hockey cards from the 1930s through the 1990s. The company is known for its simple yet classic designs, as well as its inclusion of French text on many of its cards. O-Pee-Chee also produced some of the most valuable hockey cards of all time, including the iconic Wayne Gretzky rookie card. Parkhurst was a Canadian company that produced hockey cards from the 1950s through the 1960s. The company is known for its distinctive designs and for producing some of the first hockey cards to include statistics on the back. Parkhurst also produced a popular set of cards featuring players from the Montreal Canadiens. See also [Discover the Science of Kick Point in Hockey Sticks](#)While these companies may not be as well-known as Upper Deck or Panini, their unique designs and valuable cards have made them popular among hockey card collectors. So the next time you're perusing a collection, be sure to keep an eye out for cards from these lesser-known manufacturers. Controversies and Scandals That Have Rocked the Hockey Card World As with any industry, the world of hockey cards has not been immune to controversy and scandal. Here are some of the most notable: The Wayne Gretzky Rookie Card Scandal The Story In the late 1980s, a man named Peter Nash approached a collector named Bill Mastro with a Wayne Gretzky rookie card that was graded a perfect 10 by Professional Sports Authenticator (PSA). Nash wanted to sell the card, but Mastro told him that it would be worth more if it were encased in a protective holder made by another company, Beckett. Mastro then sent the card to Beckett, but before it was encased, he altered the card by trimming its edges to improve its appearance. The altered card was then graded a 9 by Beckett, and later sold for a record-breaking \$400,000. The Fallout After years of rumors and investigations, Mastro was eventually convicted of fraud and sentenced to 20 months in prison in 2011The value of Gretzky's rookie card, as well as the trust in the grading system for sports cards, was severely impacted by the scandal. The Upper Deck Counterfeit Scandal The Story In 2012, the FBI launched an investigation into a counterfeit ring that was producing fake Upper Deck hockey cards. The cards were being sold online for a fraction of their actual value, and were nearly indistinguishable from the real cards. 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Another trend to watch is the rise of niche or limited edition sets, catering to specific fan bases or featuring unique designs and artwork. The Impact of Artificial Intelligence AI is already being used in sports analytics, and it could soon be applied to card design and production AI could be used to analyze fan preferences and create custom designs or sets The Rise of NFTs The emergence of non-fungible tokens (NFTs) has already made waves in the art world, and it's not hard to imagine the same happening in the sports memorabilia industry. NFTs are unique digital assets that are authenticated using blockchain technology, making them highly secure and valuable. Hockey cards could be turned into NFTs, making them even more collectible and valuable NFTs could allow for the creation of one-of-a-kind cards featuring rare moments or achievements See also [Discover the Winning Strategy for Offense in Ice Hockey](#)As with any industry, sustainability and environmental concerns are becoming more important in hockey card production. Companies are looking for ways to reduce waste and carbon emissions, and fans are becoming more aware of the impact of their hobby on the planet. Companies may explore more sustainable materials and production methods Fans may be encouraged to recycle or trade cards rather than throwing them away While the future of hockey card production is uncertain, one thing is clear: the industry will continue to evolve and innovate to meet the changing needs and desires of collectors. Whether it's through technology, NFTs, or sustainability, the future of hockey cards is sure to be exciting and full of surprises. Frequently Asked Questions Q: How many companies make hockey cards? There are currently three major companies that dominate the hockey card market: Upper Deck, Panini, and In the Game. However, there are also smaller companies that produce hockey cards, such as Leaf and ITG. Each company has its own unique approach to card design and production, and some collectors prefer one company's cards over another's. Hockey cards are typically produced using a printing process called lithography, which involves creating a printing plate with an image of the card and then transferring that image onto a sheet of paper or card stock. The cards are then cut to size and packaged for sale. Some companies also use special printing techniques, such as embossing or foil stamping, to make their cards stand out. Q: What is the most valuable hockey card? The most valuable hockey card is widely considered to be the 1910-11 T206 Eddie Plank card, which is part of a larger set of tobacco cards produced by the American Tobacco Company. Only a few dozen copies of the card are known to exist, and one sold for over \$3 million in 2021. Q: What makes a hockey card valuable? Several factors can contribute to a hockey card's value, including the player featured on the card, the rarity of the card, and the condition of the card. Cards featuring superstar players like Wayne Gretzky or Sidney Crosby are generally more valuable than cards featuring lesser-known players, while cards that are in excellent condition and are rare or hard to find can also be highly valuable. Many collectors choose to keep their hockey cards sealed in their original packaging, as this can help preserve the condition of the cards and potentially increase their value over time. However, other collectors prefer to open their packs and enjoy the cards inside. Ultimately, whether to keep your cards sealed or open them is a personal choice. Q: Where can I buy hockey cards? Hockey cards can be purchased from a variety of sources, including hobby shops, online retailers, and collector conventions. Some popular online retailers for buying hockey cards include eBay and Amazon, while Upper Deck and Panini also sell cards directly through their websites. Page 2 If you're a hockey card collector, you may have wondered how many companies are involved in producing these coveted pieces of sports memorabilia. While there are a few big players in the industry that most collectors are familiar with, the truth may surprise you. In this article, we'll explore the fascinating world of hockey card manufacturing and reveal just how many companies are actually involved in the process. First, we'll take a look at the history of hockey card collecting and how it has evolved over the years. 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Ultimately, whether to keep your cards sealed or open them is a personal choice. Q: Where can I buy hockey cards? Hockey cards can be purchased from a variety of sources, including hobby shops, online retailers, and collector conventions. Some popular online retailers for buying hockey cards include eBay and Amazon, while Upper Deck and Panini also sell cards directly through their websites. The NHL has had many changes over the past few years, but one of the most prominent is that they no longer issue physical cards with players' photos on them. Now, your collection of players is probably still stocked with these novelty cards from the '90s, but the real collectors' items these days are the ones that are created digitally, such as Google Card, Facebook Cards, and TikTok players. On this blog post, we'll take a look at who makes the real cardboard hockey cards and the pros and cons of each of the main vendors. NHL Team Sets NHL team sets are a great way for sports fans to show their team allegiance. The sets usually consist of 40-50 cards, packed in a cardboard holder. The cards themselves are usually glossy, with a thick cardboard stock and a smooth finish. They also feature the full team photo and roster, along with player stats and biographies. In addition, your collection of team sets will also contain an insert of that team's logo. Scottish Professional Hockey League (SPHL) The Scottish Professional Hockey League (SPHL) is the major development league for ice hockey in Scotland. It was founded in October 2017 and is currently comprised of seven teams. The league is currently in the middle of a three-year developmental cycle, with the next stage – the Elite League – set to be launched in September 2020. Central Professional Hockey League (CPHL) The Central Professional Hockey League (CPHL) is a minor-league ice hockey organization based in Central Canada. The league was founded in October 2019 and will initially consist of five teams, with 27 players on each roster. According to the league website, the teams will be based in Thunder Bay, Ontario; Brantford, Ontario; London, Ontario; and Windsor, Ontario. The first season of the CPHL will run from October to April, with each team playing a total of 40 games. The playoffs then follow, with the top two teams from each division contesting a best-of-seven series. The league is currently in the middle of a three-year developmental cycle, with the next stage – the Elite League – set to be launched in September 2020. United Hockey League (UHL) The United Hockey League (UHL) is a semi-professional ice hockey league operating in the Mid-Atlantic area of the United States. The league was founded in 2010 and currently consists of seven teams, with a total of 20 players on every roster. Like with most other sports organizations in the U.S., the regular season for the UHL runs from October to April, with each team playing a total of 42 games. The playoffs then follow, with the top two teams from each division competing in a best-of-seven series. The UHL is the only major U.S. league to have a dedicated app, which is why most of the statistics and information associated with the teams and players are available on this application. The American Hockey League (AHL) is the top development league for ice hockey in the United States. It was founded in 1971 and currently contains 30 teams in four conferences. The regular season runs from October to April and is similar to that of the UHL. Each team plays a total of 42 games, with the top two teams in each conference earning the right to participate in the playoffs. The AHL is widely considered to be the major league of North American minor ice hockey. It would be a massive undertaking to try and cover every team, division, and player in the NHL, let alone the other prominent leagues across the world. We've decided to narrow our focus to the more traditional hockey cards, which is where this article will remain focused. This is also because, for many people, the novelty of collecting players' autographs has diminished. Still, it's worth noting that the most recent craze in collecting has veered greatly towards unique and limited-edition baseball cards and NBA Draft cards. These are the sorts of things that you wouldn't normally find in a regular box of baseball or basketball cards. How Do They Make The Cards? As mentioned above, the real fun of collecting cards isn't necessarily in collecting the actual pieces of cardboard with the iconic players' images on them. It's more about the process of bringing the players' personalities and skills into being. This is where the vendors' expertise and creative skills come in, with each of them having a special way of applying their own spin on a hockey card. The three main companies that we'll discuss in this article are: Canadian Tire Company Limited, McFarlane, and Topps. Let's take a closer look at how each of them handles the cardboard, designs the cards, and applies the actual printings. Canadians Tire Company Limited Canadian Tire Company Limited is a major Canadian retailer that also has an extensive network of warehouses and distribution centers across the country. To ensure timely delivery of their products to customers, Canadian Tire has established close ties with various hockey card manufacturers. This relationship began in the early 1950s, with Canadian Tire regularly securing the rights to release certain players' cards as part of a marketing campaign. This practice continues to this day and provides customers with a steady stream of new cards to add to their collections. As a result of their long and fruitful association with the NHL, Canadians Tire have become experts in manufacturing hockey cards. The company's in-house design team take the raw ingredients – photos, player stats, and bios – and use them to create a beautifully crafted cardboard box. In addition, the company's artists hand-draw the players' images right onto the cardboard, using various grayscale and color palettes. This ensures that every card is unique and features a high-quality image. See also [How To Make a Hockey Puck Holder: Step-By-Step Guide](#)Topps Hockey Topps is a trading card company that specializes in producing and distributing content for both traditional and digital platforms. Topps have been making sport cards for quite some time and have branched out into many different areas, including entertainment, music, and fashion. As a result of their expertise in other areas of entertainment, music, and fashion, Topps have begun producing hockey cards, which they market as "collector items," due to their unique look and high demand among fans of the sport. Though Topps produce beautiful, unique items, the nature of their work means that they can't use any photos copyrighted by other parties. This often leads to issues with licensing, as other companies' images are often used without proper permission. Still, it's great to see a company devoted to the hobby, mindful of these legalities and aware of their responsibilities to the athletes they represent on the cards' fronts. McFarlane is an international company, renowned for creating action figures based on pop culture icons. In addition to hockey, McFarlane have also produced cards for the MLB, NFL, and NBA. The company's relationship with the NHL began in the 1960s, when they secured the rights to make and distribute various player figures and trading cards. The company's relationship with the NHL has since grown into a more formal partnership, with the company's artists hand-drawing the players' images right onto the cardboard, using various grayscale and color palettes. This ensures that every card is unique and features a high-quality image. See also [The Mystery of BKS in Hockey: Unveiling What It Stands For](#)Topps Hockey Topps is a trading card company that specializes in producing and distributing content for both traditional and digital platforms. Topps have been making sport cards for quite some time and have branched out into many different areas, including entertainment, music, and fashion. As a result of their expertise in other areas of entertainment, music, and fashion, Topps have begun producing hockey cards, which they market as "collector items," due to their unique look and high demand among fans of the sport. 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These are the sorts of things that you wouldn't normally find in a regular box of baseball or basketball cards. How Do They Make The Cards? As mentioned above, the real fun of collecting cards isn't necessarily in collecting the actual pieces of cardboard with the iconic players' images on them. It's more about the process of bringing the players' personalities and skills into being. This is where the vendors' expertise and creative skills come in, with each of them having a special way of applying their own spin on a hockey card. The three main companies that we'll discuss in this article are: Canadian Tire Company Limited, McFarlane, and Topps. Let's take a closer look at how each of them handles the cardboard, designs the cards, and applies the actual printings. Canadians Tire Company Limited Canadian Tire Company Limited is a major Canadian retailer that also has an extensive network of warehouses and distribution centers across the country. To ensure timely delivery of their products to customers, Canadian Tire has established close ties with various hockey card manufacturers. This relationship began in the early 1950s, with Canadian Tire regularly securing the rights to release certain players' cards as part of a marketing campaign. This practice continues to this day and provides customers with a steady stream of new cards to add to their collections. As a result of their long and fruitful association with the NHL, Canadians Tire have become experts in manufacturing hockey cards. The company's in-house design team take the raw ingredients – photos, player stats, and bios – and use them to create a beautifully crafted cardboard box. In addition, the company's artists hand-draw the players' images right onto the cardboard, using various grayscale and color palettes. This ensures that every card is unique and features a high-quality image. See also [What Counts As A Shot In Hockey?](#) [\[Solved\]](#)Topps Hockey Topps is a trading card company that specializes in producing and distributing content for both traditional and digital platforms. Topps have been making sport cards for quite some time and have branched out into many different areas, including entertainment, music, and fashion. As a result of their expertise in other areas of entertainment, music, and fashion, Topps have begun producing hockey cards, which they market as "collector items," due to their unique look and high demand among fans of the sport. Though Topps produce beautiful, unique items, the nature of their work means that they can't use any photos copyrighted by other parties. This often leads to issues with licensing, as other companies' images are often used without proper permission.

Still, it's great to see a company devoted to the hobby, mindful of these legalities and aware of their responsibilities to the athletes they represent on the cards' fronts. McFarlane is an international company, renowned for creating action figures based on pop culture icons. In addition to hockey, McFarlane have also produced cards for the MLB, NFL, and NBA. The company's relationship with the NHL began in the 1960s, when they secured the rights to make and distribute various player figures and trading cards. The company has since grown to include many other sports, including soccer, golf, tennis, and more. Though they don't produce cardboard by themselves, McFarlane have several affiliates that manufacture and distribute sports-related products, including hockey and soccer cards. As well, the company run a hockey league, the Diamond Ice Hockey League, where they sign professional players to lucrative contracts. This gives them full control over which players they represent on their cards, with no repercussions from the NHL or other sports leagues. Share — copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt — remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Attribution — You must give appropriate credit , provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made . You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. ShareAlike — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions — You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation . No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material.