

FIFA Big Count 2006: 270 million people active in football

There are now 265 million footballers (male and female) worldwide – and 270 million people are actively involved in football if referees and officials are included. These are the significant main results of a survey conducted by FIFA with the help of its 207 member associations.

The figures represent a 10% increase on the first survey that used the same criteria in the year 2000. The number of registered players has increased by over 50% in the women's game alone.

The key findings from the study are:

- ❖ **The overall total – 265 million players – is almost 10% higher than the number recorded six years ago (242 million). 26 million (or nearly 10%) of these players are women.**
- ❖ **Referees and officials bring the total number of people directly involved in football to 270 million. This means that around 4% of the world's population (or 1 in 25 people) are directly involved with football.**
- ❖ **The number of registered footballers (38 million) has increased by nearly a quarter (23%) on the same figure from the year 2000 (30 million).**
- ❖ **The growth in women's football is particularly striking. The number of registered female players (at youth and senior level) has increased by 54% to 4.1 million. In the men's game, the number has increased by 21% to 34.2 million.**
- ❖ **The number of unregistered occasional players, which was first recorded in the previous Big Count study, has increased by 7% to 226 million.**
- ❖ **When added together, there are already over one million futsal and beach soccer players (male and female).**
- ❖ **In terms of regional differences, Asia (85 million footballers) holds a clear advantage over the other five confederations (Europe: 62 million; Africa: 46 million; North, Central America and the Caribbean: 43 million; South America: 27 million; Oceania: 0.5 million). However, if the share of footballers in the total population is taken into account, North, Central America and the Caribbean, South America and Europe are all ahead of the other confederations with a population share of over 7% each.**
- ❖ **The number of clubs (301,000) is similar to the figure recorded in 2000. Conversely, the total number of teams (1.7 million) represents an increase of approximately 200,000 teams (i.e. an average of nearly six teams per club). The apparent decrease in the number of professional footballers (110,000) can be attributed to the improvements made in the method of collating data.**

The data for Big Count 2006 was collated in the first half of 2006 via the standard practice of a questionnaire as well as an online tool. The response rate was over 75%. FIFA used Big Count 2000, a UEFA survey from 2005 and other internal analyses to supplement missing data from associations and for plausibility purposes. The study was scientifically observed by Lamprecht & Stamm SFB AG, a social research company based in Zurich.

Big Count: Comparison 2006 – 2000

(in millions, overall totals rounded)

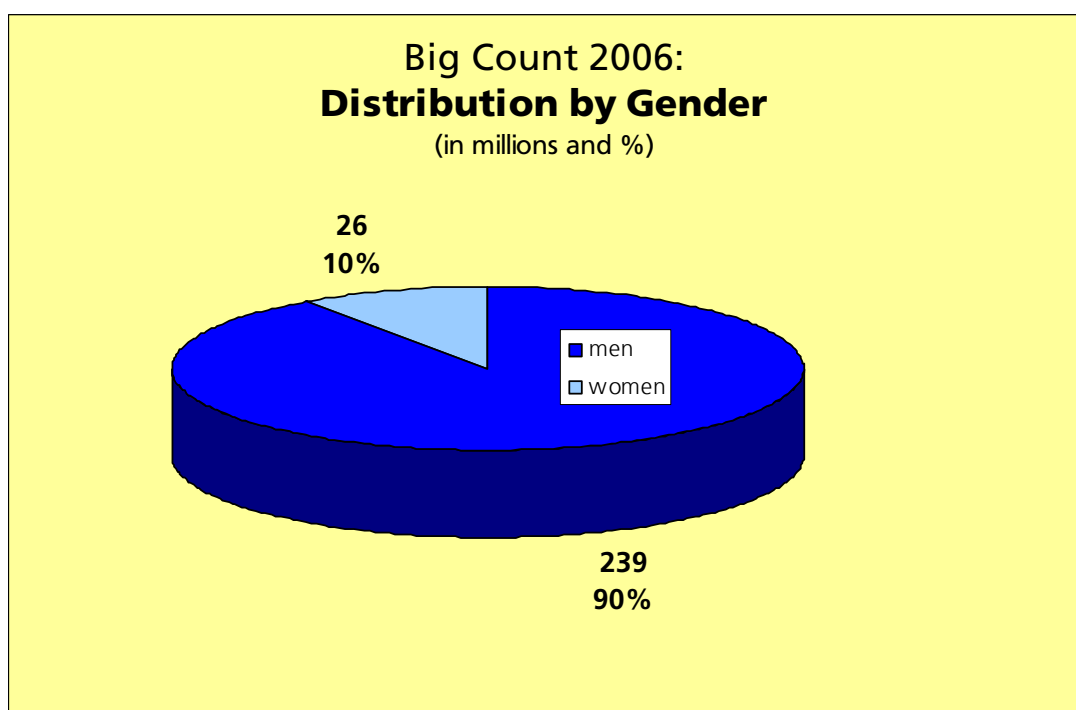
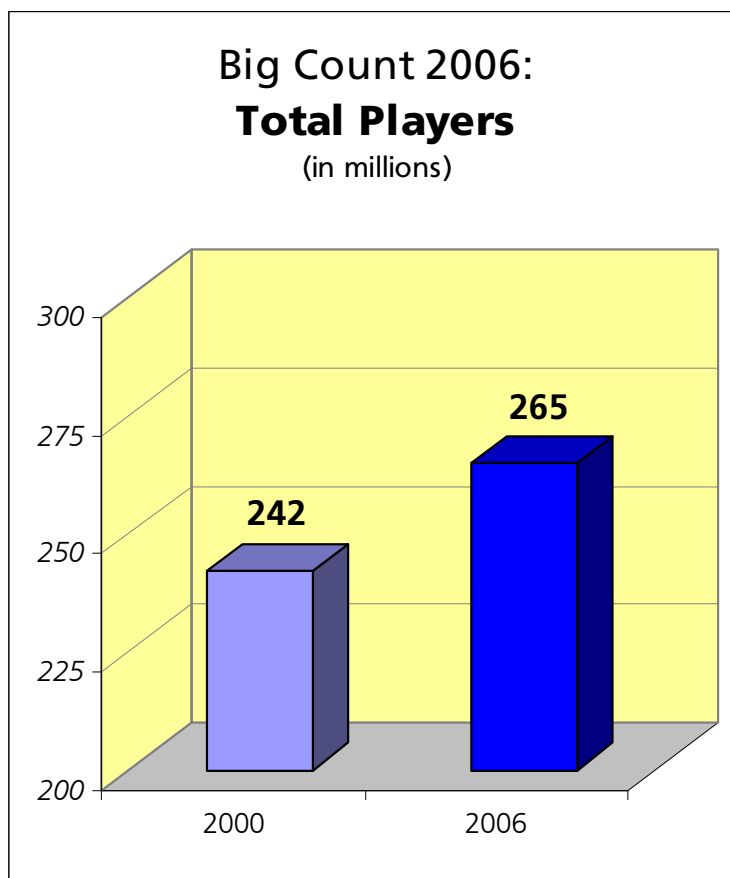
	Big Count 2006	Big Count 2000	+/-
Total Players	265	242	+9%
Male players	238.6	220.5	+8
Female players	26.0	21.9	+19
Total Players, registered	38	31	+24%
Male players, registered	34.2	28.3	+21
Female players, registered	4.1	2.7	+54
Total Players, not registered	226	211	+7%
Male players, not registered	204.4	192.2	+6
Female players, not registered	21.9	19.2	+14
Total Youth	22	18	+7%
Male players, youth	18.7	15.8	+18
Female players, youth	2.9	2.2	+32
Total Persons involved in football	270	247	+9%
Total Players	264.6	242.4	+9
Total Referees	0.84	0.72	+17
Officials	4.2	3.6	+17
	(in 1000s)		
Professionals (male)	110	125	
Futsal & Beach Soccer	1,100	-	
Clubs	301	305	
Teams	1,752	1,548	

Big Count 2006: Statistical Summary Report by Gender/Category/Region

In 1000s; sum of rounded values does not always correspond with rounded total

Values proved statistically

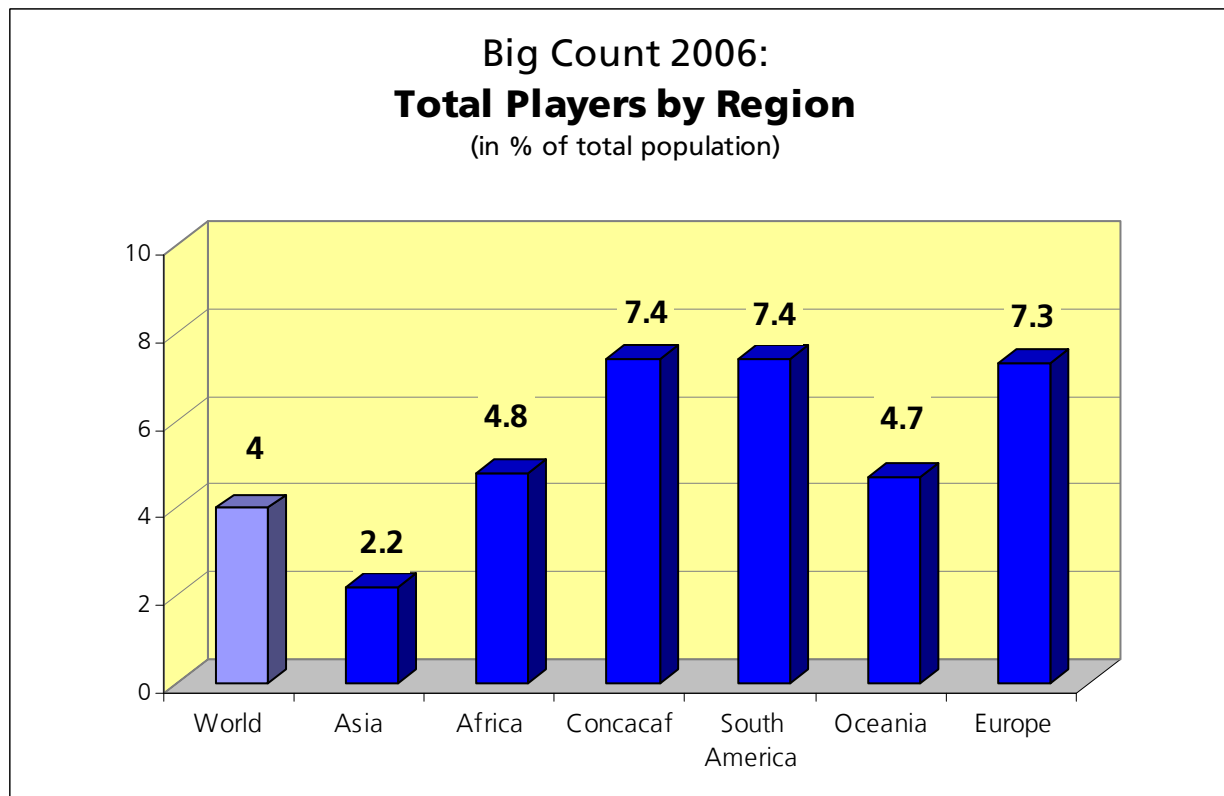
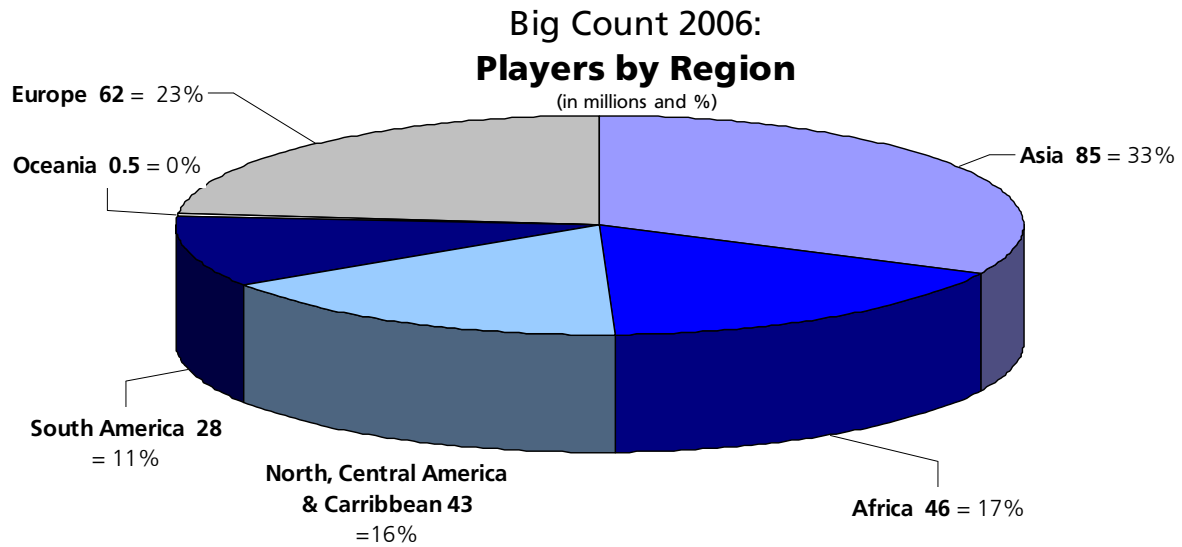
	TOTAL	AFC	CAF	CONCACAF	CONMEBOL	OFC	UEFA
Players	264,552	85,176	46,300	43,109	27,778	542	61,647
Male	238,557	80,075	44,940	33,071	24,703	486	55,283
Female	25,995	5,102	1,361	10,038	3074	56	6,364
Referees, Officials	5,058	673	630	1133	168	32	2,422
Total involved in Football	269,610	85,849	46,930	44,242	27,946	573	64,069
% of Population	4.13	2.22	5.16	8.53	7.47	4.68	7.59
Total Population	6,529,791	3,870,439	909,575	518,613	374,235	12,252	844,677
Registered Players	38,287	4,040	3,101	6,121	3,759	241	21,025
Professionals	113	11	7	9	25	0	60
Amateurs (18 and over)	15,481	1,531	926	884	980	59	11,101
Youth (under 18)	21,548	2,322	2,156	5,163	2,346	175	9,386
Futsal	1,112	166	10	60	406	7	464
Beach Soccer	33	10	2	5	1	0	14
Unregistered Players	226,265	81,136	43,199	36,988	24,018	301	40,622
Company or Army Teams, Schools and Universities, Street Football	104,928	29,131	9,050	25,978	14,199	158	26,412
Occasional players, additional estimate	121,337	52,006	34,149	11,010	9,819	143	14,210
Referees, Officials	5,058	673	630	1133	168	32	2,422
Referees and Assistant Referees	843	263	50	172	32	3	322
Administrators, Coaches, Technical and Medical Staff	4,214	410	580	961	136	29	2,100
Clubs	301	20	12	17	47	2	202
Teams	1,752	145	71	490	162	13	872
Clubs with at least one women's team	26	3	1	7	1	0	13



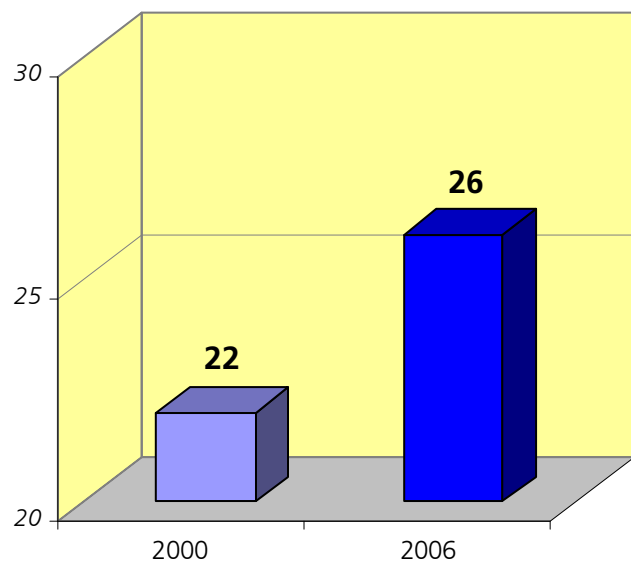


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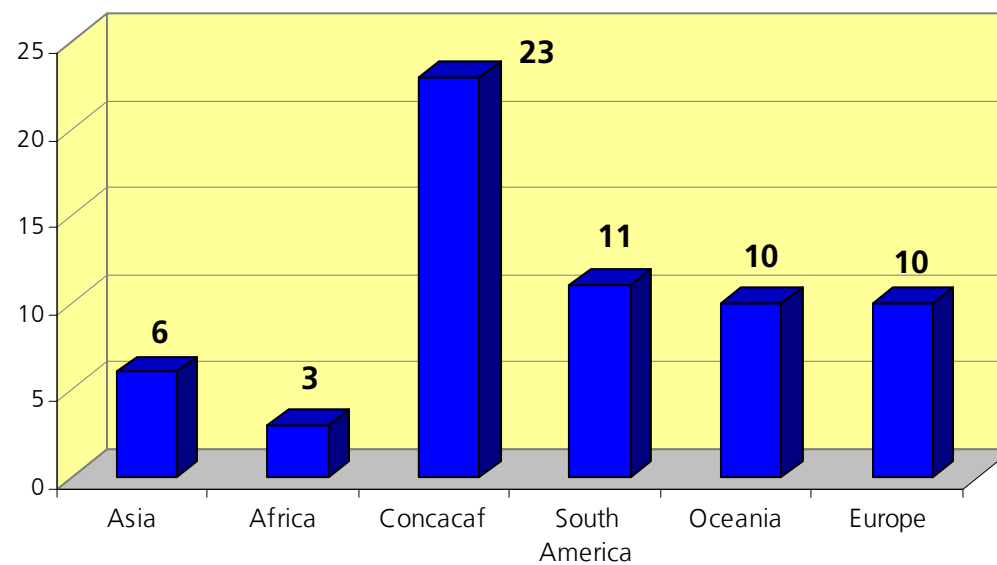
For the Good of the Game



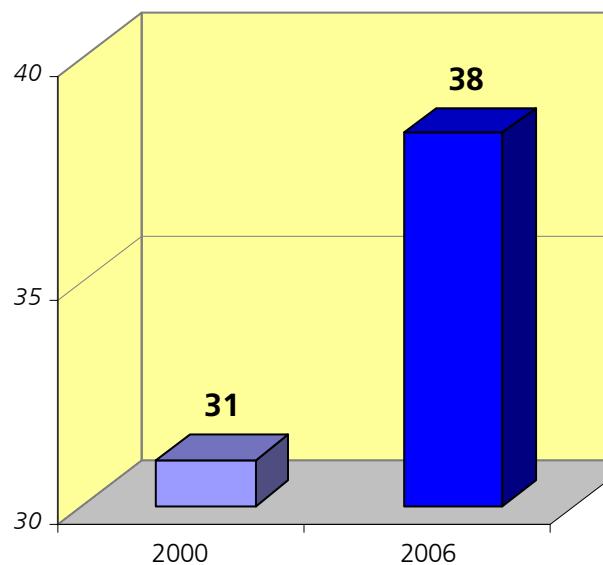
**Big Count 2006:
Female Players**
(in millions)



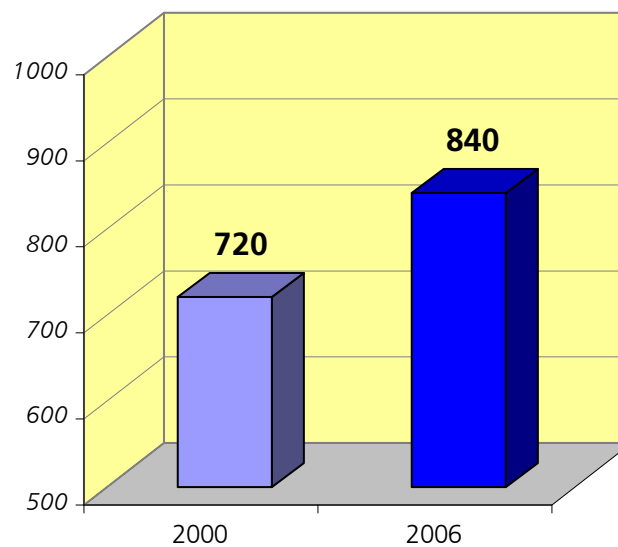
**Big Count 2006:
Female Players**
(in % of total)



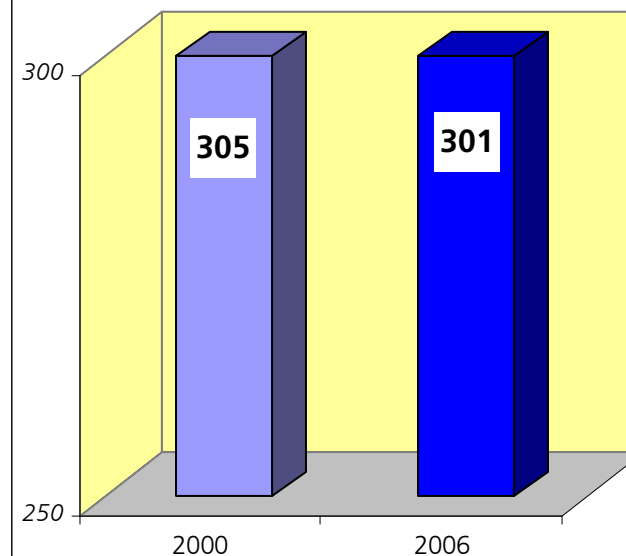
**Big Count 2006:
Registered Players**
(in millions)



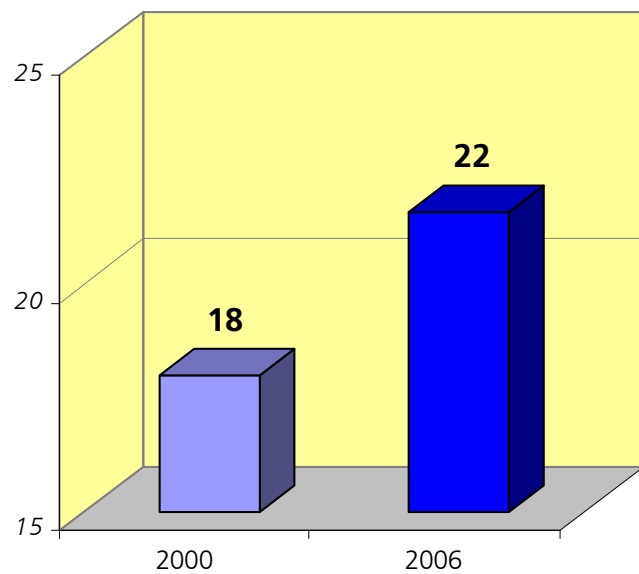
**Big Count 2006:
Referees**
(in 1000s)



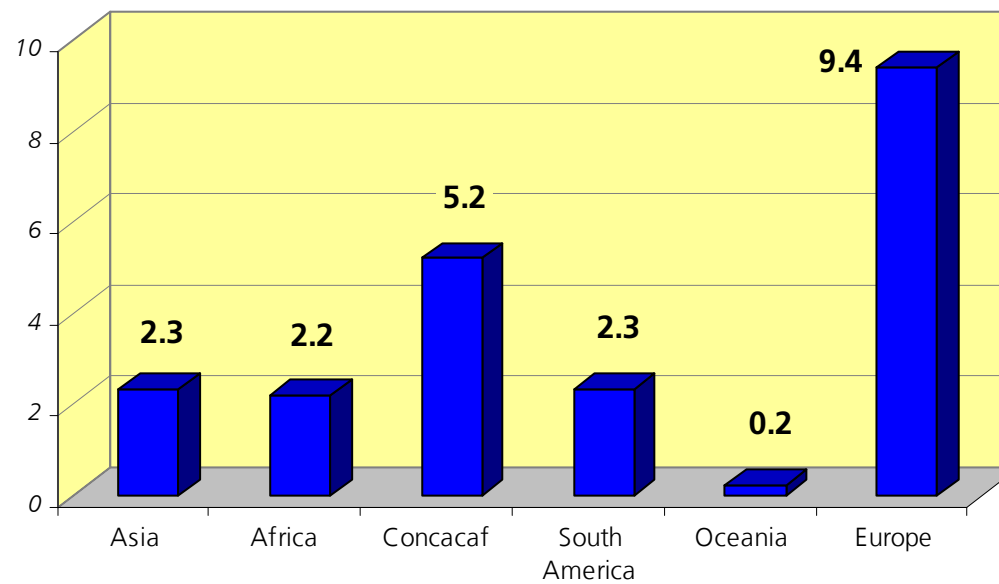
**Big Count 2006:
Clubs**
(in 1000s)



**Big Count 2006:
Youth Players**
(in millions)



**Big Count 2006:
Youth Players by Region**
(in millions)



PLAYERS TOTAL			<i>in 1000s</i>	PLAYERS TOTAL			<i>in % of pop</i>
1	CHN	Chinese Football Association	26,166	1	CRC	Federación Costarricense de Fútbol	27
2	USA	US Soccer Federation	24,473	2	GER	Deutscher Fussball-Bund	20
3	IND	All India Football Federation	20,588	3	FRO	The Faroe Islands Football Association	17
4	GER	Deutscher Fussball-Bund	16,309	4	GUA	Federación Nacional de Fútbol de Guatemala	16
5	BRA	Confederação Brasileira de Futebol	13,198	5	CHI	Federación de Fútbol de Chile	16
6	MEX	Federación Mexicana de Fútbol Asociación, A.C.	8,480	6	PAR	Asociación Paraguaya de Fútbol	16
7	IDN	Football Association of Indonesia	7,094	7	ARU	Arubaanse Voetbal Bond	15
8	NGA	Nigeria Football Association	6,654	8	BRB	Barbados Football Association	13
9	BAN	Bangladesh Football Federation	6,280	9	VAN	Vanuatu Football Federation	13
10	RUS	Football Union of Russia	5,803	10	MLI	Fédération Malienne de Football	12
11	ITA	Federazione Italiana Giuoco Calcio	4,980	11	AIA	Anguilla Football Association	12
12	JPN	Japan Football Association	4,805	12	AUT	Österreichischer Fussball-Bund	12
13	RSA	South African Football Association	4,540	13	NOR	Norges Fotballforbund	12
14	FRA	Fédération Française de Football	4,190	14	SVK	Slovak Football Association	11
15	ENG	The Football Association	4,164	15	SWE	Svenska Fotbollförbundet	11
16	ETH	Ethiopian Football Federation	3,474	16	BER	Bermuda Football Association	11
17	EGY	Egyptian Football Association	3,138	17	ISL	Knattspyrnusamband Islands	11
18	COL	Federación Colombiana de Fútbol	3,043	18	NED	Koninklijke Nederlandse Voetbalbond	11
19	PAK	Pakistan Football Federation	2,975	19	IRL	The Football Association of Ireland	10
20	ESP	Real Federación Española de Fútbol	2,834	20	COK	Cook Islands Football Association	10

PLAYERS REGISTERED			<i>in 1000s</i>	MALE REGISTERED			<i>in 1000s</i>	FEMALE REGISTERED			<i>in 1000s</i>
1	GER	Deutscher Fussball-Bund	6,309	1	GER	Deutscher Fussball-Bund	5,438	1	USA	US Soccer Federation	1,670
2	USA	US Soccer Federation	4,187	2	USA	US Soccer Federation	2,517	2	GER	Deutscher Fussball-Bund	871
3	BRA	Confederação Brasileira de Futebol	2,142	3	BRA	Confederação Brasileira de Futebol	2,115	3	CAN	The Canadian Soccer Association	495
4	FRA	Fédération Française de Football	1,795	4	FRA	Fédération Française de Football	1,746	4	SWE	Svenska Fotbollförbundet	136
5	ITA	Federazione Italiana Giuoco Calcio	1,514	5	ITA	Federazione Italiana Giuoco Calcio	1,499	5	AUS	Football Federation Australia Limited	112
6	ENG	The Football Association	1,486	6	RSA	South African Football Association	1,463	6	NOR	Norges Fotballforbund	98
7	RSA	South African Football Association	1,469	7	ENG	The Football Association	1,389	7	ENG	The Football Association	97
8	NED	Koninklijke Nederlandse Voetbalbond	1,139	8	NED	Koninklijke Nederlandse Voetbalbond	1,055	8	NED	Koninklijke Nederlandse Voetbalbond	84
9	JPN	Japan Football Association	1,045	9	JPN	Japan Football Association	1,000	9	DEN	Dansk Boldspil-Union	56
10	CAN	The Canadian Soccer Association	866	10	RUS	Football Union of Russia	835	10	FRA	Fédération Française de Football	49
11	RUS	Football Union of Russia	847	11	CHN	Chinese Football Association	700	11	JPN	Japan Football Association	46
12	CHN	Chinese Football Association	711	12	UKR	Football Federation of Ukraine	691	12	BRA	Confederação Brasileira de Futebol	27
13	UKR	Football Federation of Ukraine	692	13	CZE	Football Association of Czech Republic	671	13	ESP	Real Federación Española de Fútbol	24
14	CZE	Football Association of Czech Republic	686	14	POL	Polish Football Association	655	14	NZL	New Zealand Soccer Inc	24
15	POL	Polish Football Association	657	15	ESP	Real Federación Española de Fútbol	629	15	FIN	Suomen Palloliitto	24
16	ESP	Real Federación Española de Fútbol	653	16	AUT	Österreichischer Fussball-Bund	585	16	BEL	Union Royale Belge des Sociétés de Football-Association	21
17	AUT	Österreichischer Fussball-Bund	596	17	CHI	Federación de Fútbol de Chile	470	17	CZE	Football Association of Czech Republic	15
18	SWE	Svenska Fotbollförbundet	553	18	IRN	IR Iran Football Federation	439	18	SUI	Schweizerischer Fussballverband	15
19	CHI	Federación de Fútbol de Chile	478	19	SVK	Slovak Football Association	428	19	ITA	Federazione Italiana Giuoco Calcio	15
20	IRN	IR Iran Football Federation	450	20	BEL	Union Royale Belge des Sociétés de Football-Association	422	20	MEX	Federación Mexicana de Fútbol Asociación, A.C.	13

YOUTH TOTAL		<i>in 1000s</i>	MALE YOUTH		<i>in 1000s</i>	FEMALE YOUTH		<i>in 1000s</i>
1	USA US Soccer Federation	3,907	1	USA US Soccer Federation	2,344	1	USA US Soccer Federation	1,563
2	GER Deutscher Fussball-Bund	2,082	2	GER Deutscher Fussball-Bund	1,845	2	CAN The Canadian Soccer Association	407
3	BRA Confederação Brasileira de Futebol	1,347	3	BRA Confederação Brasileira de Futebol	1,345	3	GER Deutscher Fussball-Bund	237
4	RSA South African Football Association	1,300	4	RSA South African Football Association	1,300	4	SWE Svenska Fotbollförbundet	107
5	FRA Fédération Française de Football	1,034	5	FRA Fédération Française de Football	1,006	5	AUS Football Federation Australia Limited	84
6	ENG The Football Association	820	6	ENG The Football Association	750	6	NOR Norges Fotballforbund	83
7	CAN The Canadian Soccer Association	716	7	UKR Football Federation of Ukraine	658	7	ENG The Football Association	70
8	UKR Football Federation of Ukraine	659	8	JPN Japan Football Association	604	8	NED Koninklijke Nederlandse Voetbalbond	43
9	JPN Japan Football Association	629	9	ITA Federazione Italiana Giuoco Calcio	554	9	DEN Dansk Boldspil-Union	42
10	ITA Federazione Italiana Giuoco Calcio	557	10	NED Koninklijke Nederlandse Voetbalbond	467	10	FRA Fédération Française de Football	28
11	NED Koninklijke Nederlandse Voetbalbond	510	11	ESP Real Federación Española de Fútbol	415	11	JPN Japan Football Association	25
12	ESP Real Federación Española de Fútbol	419	12	CHN Chinese Football Association	373	12	NZL New Zealand Soccer Inc	19
13	CHN Chinese Football Association	383	13	CHI Federación de Fútbol de Chile	325	13	FIN Suomen Palloliitto	17
14	CHI Federación de Fútbol de Chile	327	14	IND All India Football Federation	311	14	SUI Schweizerischer Fussballverband	11
15	SWE Svenska Fotbollförbundet	320	15	CAN The Canadian Soccer Association	309	15	CHN Chinese Football Association	10
16	IND All India Football Federation	314	16	ARG Asociación del Fútbol Argentino	231	16	BEL Union Royale Belge des Sociétés de Football-Association	8
17	AUS Football Federation Australia Limited	300	17	AUT Österreichischer Fussball-Bund	217	17	MEX Federación Mexicana de Fútbol Asociación, A.C.	7
18	NOR Norges Fotballforbund	273	18	AUS Football Federation Australia Limited	216	18	NCA Federación Nicaragüense de Fútbol	7
19	ARG Asociación del Fútbol Argentino	231	19	SWE Svenska Fotbollförbundet	213	19	IRL The Football Association of Ireland	7
20	AUT Österreichischer Fussball-Bund	222	20	CZE Football Association of Czech Republic	205	20	KEN Kenya Football Federation	5

REFEREES		<i>in 1000s</i>	CLUBS		<i>in 1000s</i>	PROFESSIONALS		<i>total</i>
1	JPN Japan Football Association	190	1	ENG The Football Association	40	1	BRA Confederação Brasileira de Futebol	16,200
2	USA US Soccer Federation	140	2	BRA Confederação Brasileira de Futebol	29	2	ENG The Football Association	6,000
3	GER Deutscher Fussball-Bund	81	3	GER Deutscher Fussball-Bund	26	3	MEX Federación Mexicana de Fútbol Asociación, A.C.	4,593
4	RUS Football Union of Russia	37	4	FRA Fédération Française de Football	19	4	TUR Türkiye Futbol Federasyonu	4,491
5	ENG The Football Association	33	5	ESP Real Federación Española de Fútbol	18	5	SCO The Scottish Football Association	4,132
6	FRA Fédération Française de Football	28	6	ITA Federazione Italiana Giuoco Calcio	16	6	ITA Federazione Italiana Giuoco Calcio	3,541
7	ITA Federazione Italiana Giuoco Calcio	25	7	RUS Football Union of Russia	14	7	ARG Asociación del Fútbol Argentino	3,530
8	CHN Chinese Football Association	22	8	CAN The Canadian Soccer Association	7	8	RUS Football Union of Russia	3,274
9	CAN The Canadian Soccer Association	20	9	SCO The Scottish Football Association	7	9	UKR Football Federation of Ukraine	2,206
10	IND All India Football Federation	18	10	IND All India Football Federation	7	10	NGA Nigeria Football Association	2,080
11	BRA Confederação Brasileira de Futebol	16	11	CHI Federación de Fútbol de Chile	6	11	FRA Fédération Française de Football	1,825
12	SWE Svenska Fotbollförbundet	15	12	POL Polish Football Association	6	12	GRE Hellenic Football Federation	1,818
13	POL Polish Football Association	12	13	IRL The Football Association of Ireland	6	13	SWE Svenska Fotbollförbundet	1,700
14	ETH Ethiopian Football Federation	10	14	GRE Hellenic Football Federation	6	14	CHN Chinese Football Association	1,688
15	ESP Real Federación Española de Fútbol	10	15	USA US Soccer Federation	5	15	POR Federação Portuguesa de Futebol	1,663
16	AUS Football Federation Australia Limited	9	16	TUR Türkiye Futbol Federasyonu	4	16	CZE Football Association of Czech Republic	1,558
17	UKR Football Federation of Ukraine	8	17	BAN Bangladesh Football Federation	4	17	SRB Football Association of Serbia	1,500
18	IRN IR Iran Football Federation	7	18	CZE Football Association of Czech Republic	4	18	USA US Soccer Federation	1,463
19	BEL Union Royale Belge des Sociétés de Football-Association	7	19	NED Koninklijke Nederlandse Voetbalbond	4	19	UZB Uzbekistan Football Federation	1,400
20	NED Koninklijke Nederlandse Voetbalbond	7	20	ARG Asociación del Fútbol Argentino	3	20	BEL Union Royale Belge des Sociétés de Football-Association	1,399