

# GLOBAL TRANSFER MARKET REPORT 2019

FIFA®

## MEN PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL

A REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL TRANSFERS WORLDWIDE





# Foreword

Last year was, once again, a year of records. This is the reality of the football transfer market: an increasingly substantial and complex enterprise – and, because of that, one that deserves FIFA's full attention not only to regulate it, but also to understand it. This Global Transfer Market Report encapsulates our efforts to break down both the specificities of the business and its growth.

In 2019, the football transfer market reached unprecedented levels both in terms of the number of transfers and the amount spent on fees. These transfer-market superlatives are just the tip of an iceberg of information that you will find over the upcoming pages.

This year's Global Transfer Market Report features a new section dedicated to a specificity that was present in 9.4% of all transfers: sell-on fees, or in other words, the right that selling clubs retain to a percentage of a future transfer fee if a player moves to a third club.

The world of international transfers is an ever-evolving one, and we hope that the statistics and insights in this report will shed some light upon what was yet another milestone year.

Enjoy the report,



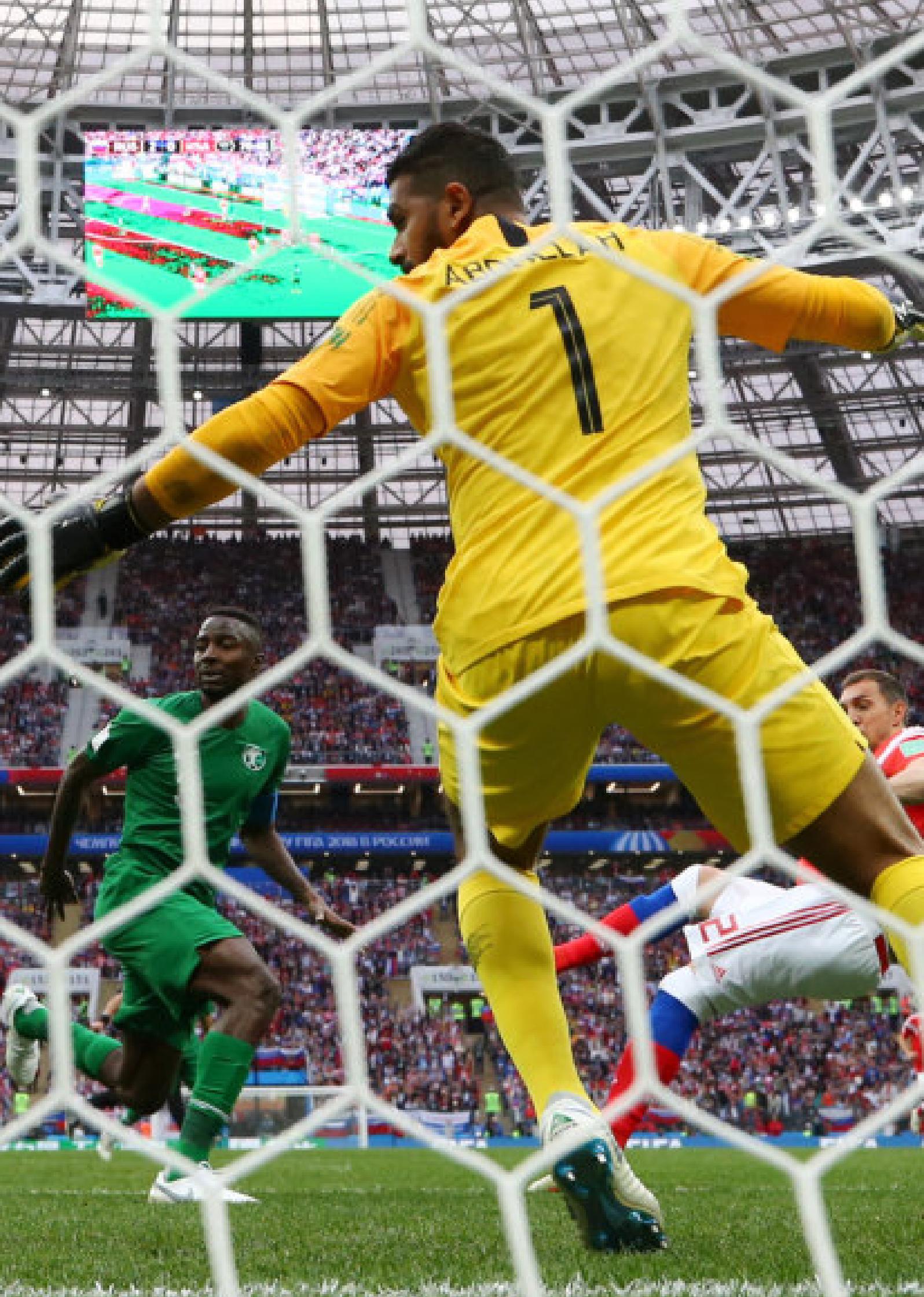
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# Definitions

## Association

See member association.

## Average transfer fee

Total transfer fees divided by number of transfers with fees.

## Club

A member of an association (that is a member association of FIFA) or a member of a league recognised by a member association that enters at least one team in a competition.

## Conditional transfer fee

The amount payable by the new club to the former club if certain conditions are fulfilled, e.g. if the player scores ten goals or makes 20 first-team appearances.

## Confederation

A group of associations recognised by FIFA that belong to the same continent (or assimilable geographical region). Confederations are the umbrella organisations of the member associations in each continent:

- AFC – Asian Football Confederation
- CAF – Confédération Africaine de Football
- Concacaf – Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football
- CONMEBOL – Confederación Sudamericana de Fútbol
- OFC – Oceania Football Confederation
- UEFA – Union des Associations Européennes de Football.

## Fixed transfer fee

The unconditional payment amount for the transfer of the player.

## ITC (International Transfer Certificate)

The official document that allows the international transfer of the player's registration from one association to another (cf. art. 9 RSTP).

## ITMS (International Transfer Matching System)

Web-based data information system with the primary objective of simplifying the process of international player transfers as well as improving transparency and the flow of information.

## Loan

The type of transfer conducted when a professional player is temporarily engaged by a new club on the basis of a loan agreement during the term of his/her employment contract with the former club.

## Loan extension

The instruction type entered when the loan is being extended by the new club (where the player is currently on loan) for an additional period of time, with the agreement of the former club and the player.

## Loan to permanent

The instruction type entered when the new club (where the player is currently on loan) wishes to engage the player permanently, with the agreement of the former club.

## Member association

A football association recognised as such by FIFA. A total of 211 member associations are currently affiliated to FIFA.

## Minor application

The submission of a request by the new association for an international transfer or the first registration of a minor.

## Out of contract (transfer)

The type of transfer conducted when a player signs for a new club when he/she is not contractually bound to any former club and no transfer agreement exists. There are four possible reasons for the player's previous contract termination: the contract with the former club has expired; the contract with the former club was terminated unilaterally; the player mutually agreed an early termination with his/her former club; the player was not under contract with his/her former club, i.e. he/she was an amateur.

## Permanent transfer (with transfer agreement)

The type of transfer conducted when a player is permanently engaged by a new club and a transfer agreement is signed by the new club and the former club.

**Professional player**

A player who has a written contract with a club and is paid more for his/her football activity than the expenses he/she effectively incurs (cf. RSTP art. 2 par. 2).

**Receipts**

Sum of the value of transfer fees of outgoing transfers. The expression "receipts by association" refers to receipts by clubs belonging to a specific member association.

**Release (buy-out) fee**

Any fee paid in execution of a clause in the player's contract with his/her former club providing for compensation for termination of the relevant contract.

**Return from loan**

The instruction type entered when a player who was loaned to another club returns to his/her club of origin after termination of the loan.

**RSTP (FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players)**

Global and binding rules concerning the status of players, their eligibility to participate in organised football, and their transfer between clubs belonging to different associations.

**Sell-on fee**

The percentage of a future transfer fee agreed between the two clubs involved in a transfer. This means that if the new club transfers the player to a third club, the former club is entitled to a percentage of the new transfer fee.

**Solidarity contribution**

If a professional player moves before the expiry of his/her contract, 5% of any compensation (not including training compensation paid to his/her former club) shall be distributed between the clubs that have contributed to his education. This solidarity contribution reflects the number of years the player was registered with the relevant club(s) between the seasons of his/her 12<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> birthdays (cf. Annexe 5 of the RSTP).

**Spending**

Sum of the value of transfer fees of incoming transfers. The expression "spending by association" refers to spending by clubs belonging to a specific member association.

**Total transfer fee**

Sum of fixed transfer fee, conditional transfer fee, release (buy-out) fee. In this report sell-on fees, solidarity contribution and training compensation are covered separately.

**Training compensation**

Sum paid to the player's training club(s): (1) when a player signs his first contract as a professional, and (2) each time a professional is transferred until the end of the season of his 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday. (cf. art. 20 of the RSTP).

**Training rewards**

See solidarity contribution and training compensation.

**Transfer fee**

Financial compensation agreed to be paid between clubs in the course of a player transfer. In this report, transfer fees include fixed transfer fees, conditional transfer fees, release (buy-out) fees. Sell-on fees, solidarity contribution and training compensation are covered separately.

**Transfer with fees**

Transfer where at least one of fixed transfer fees, conditional transfer fees, release (buy-out) fees is greater than zero.

# Methodology

## General methodology

All transfer data provided in the report only concern international transfers of professional male football players within the scope of 11-a-side football. The section on minors refers to minor applications for male players.

Transfer data has been analysed for all completed transfers between 1 October 2010 and 31 December 2019.

The data was extracted from TMS on 20 January 2020.

All information on transfer fees and intermediary commissions is automatically converted into US dollars on the basis of conversion rates as of the day when the transfer instruction is created in TMS.

Numbers in the report are rounded.

## Methodology changes

In past editions of this report and in other previous TMS publications, "total transfer fees" were defined as the sum of fixed transfer fees, conditional transfer fees, release (buy-out) fees, solidarity contribution and training compensation.

From this edition, a new definition is applied. "Total transfer fees" are defined as the sum of fixed transfer fees, conditional transfer fees and release (buy-out) fees. Solidarity contribution and training compensation are covered separately as "training rewards" generated from transfers.

In the event of any mismatch between the content of this report and past publications by FIFA and/or FIFA TMS, the most recent shall always prevail.



# 2019 in the International Transfer Matching System

## Volume of transfers

In 2019, clubs around the world completed 18,042 international transfers. This represents a 9.1% increase from the previous year. This is also the largest year-on-year increase recorded since the use of ITMS became mandatory in 2010 and represents – for the eighth consecutive year – a new record.

Overall, 15,463 professional players were involved in these transfers, representing 178 different nationalities. The total number of transfers completed since ITMS was introduced has now reached 128,628.

## Timing of transfers

Figure 2 shows the distribution of international transfers across the year. Transfers occur at any time, but most are completed during the months when the majority of associations have their registration periods open: January, February, July and August. In 2019, about 80% of all transfers occurred during these four months.

Fig. 1: Total number of international transfers by year

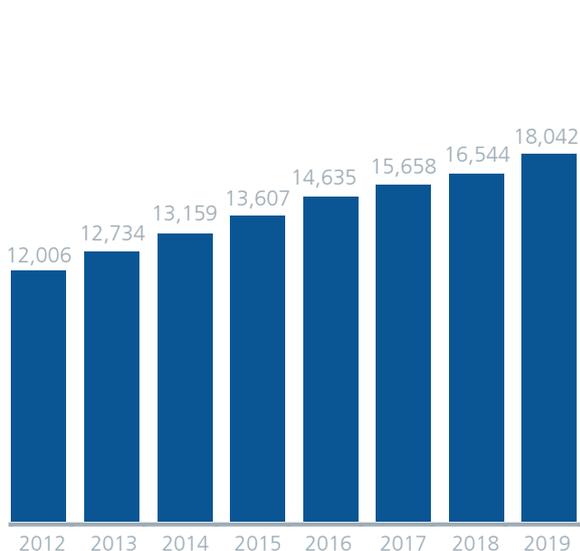
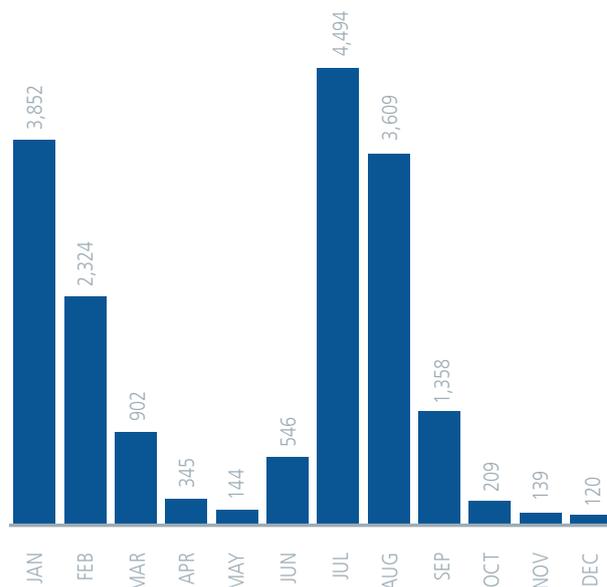


Fig. 2: International transfers by month (2019)



### Types of transfers

Despite capturing most of the media headlines, permanent club-to-club transfers only represented 11.6% of all transfers in 2019. A significant share was accounted for by loan-related transfers: loans (13.5%), loan extensions (0.8%), loan to permanent transfers (1.2%) and transfers of players returning from loans (8.6%). However, like every year, the most common transfer type was that of players out of contract, which accounted for almost two thirds (64.3%) of all transfers completed in 2019.

The most common reason for a player not being under contract with a club prior to a transfer out of contract was that his contract had expired (39.5%) or had been terminated early by mutual agreement (35.9%). The remaining cases were those where players did not have a professional contract with their previous club (21.6%) and those whose contract was unilaterally terminated (2.9%).

### Clubs and associations involved

In total, 179 of the 211 FIFA member associations were actively involved in international transfers, meaning that they released or engaged at least one player to or from another association. This is four associations fewer than in 2018. Instead, the number of active clubs increased from 3,980 in 2018 to 4,162 in 2019.

Fig. 3: International transfers by type (2019)

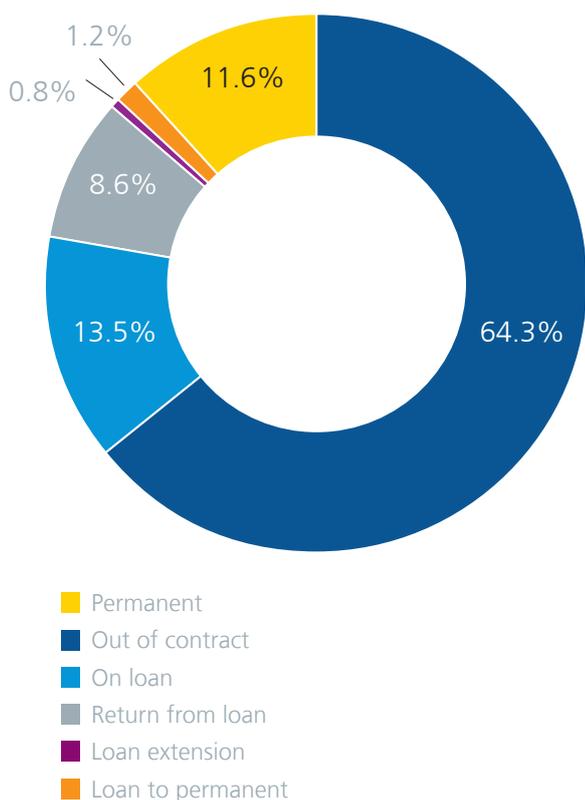


Fig. 4: Number of member associations and clubs involved in international transfers by year

Year	Associations involved	Clubs involved
2011	164	3,190
2012	166	3,171
2013	169	3,399
2014	175	3,476
2015	178	3,526
2016	178	3,641
2017	180	3,837
2018	183	3,980
2019	179	4,162

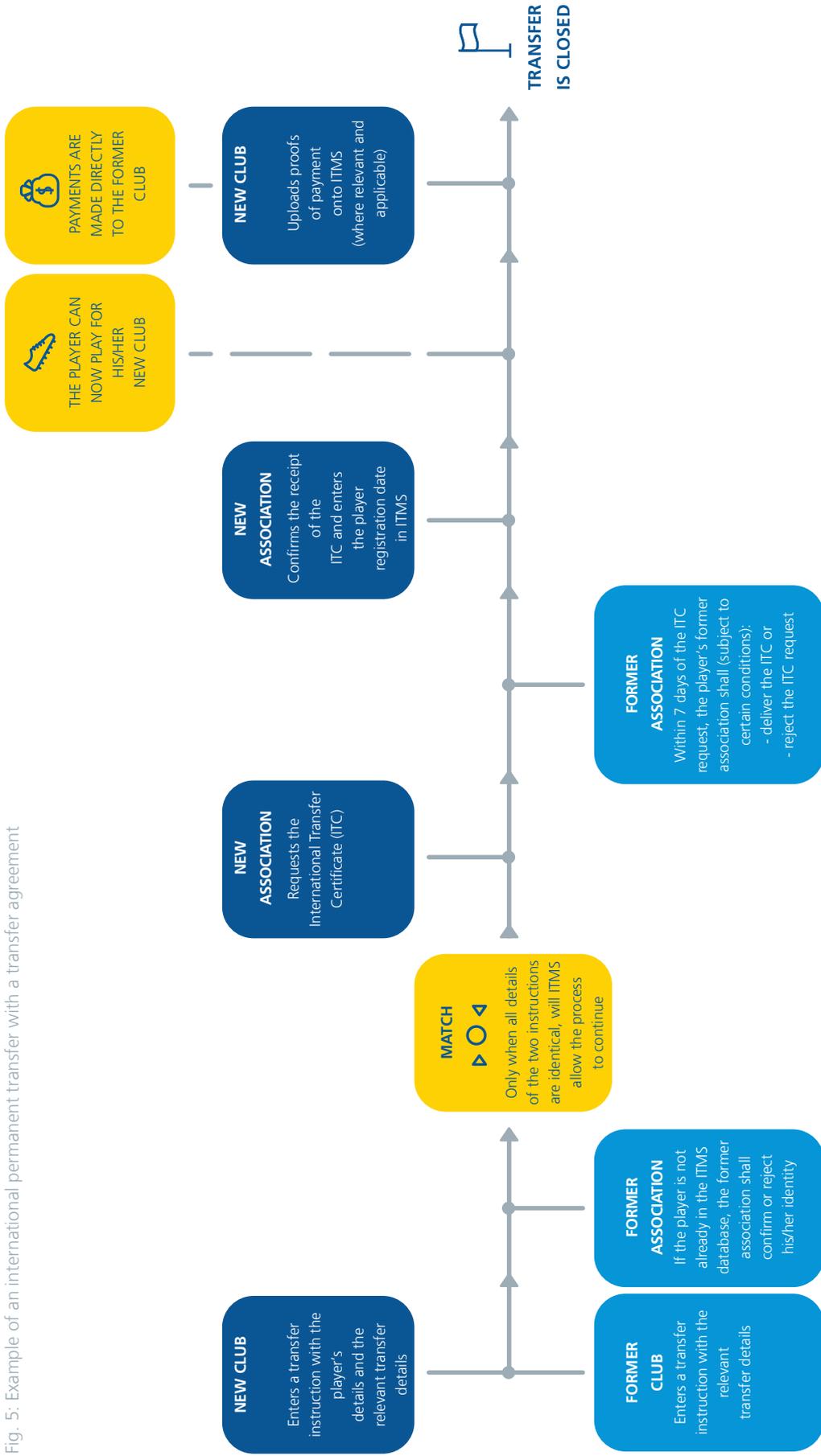


Fig. 5: Example of an international permanent transfer with a transfer agreement

Disclaimer:  
 The above illustration is for information purposes only and is not an exhaustive description of either the transfer process or the steps to be followed in a particular transfer. The illustration is not to be relied upon when processing a transfer. Each particular transfer is subject to and must be completed in accordance with the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (RSTP)

**Transfer fees**

Like the total number of transfers, spending on transfer fees has also grown to unprecedented levels. The value of international transfers in 2019 reached USD 7.35 billion, 5.8% more than in 2018. It is important to note that the USD 7.35 billion in transfer fees was generated by only 14.9% of all international transfers, as the remaining 85.1% did not include a transfer fee at all. This occurred either because the transfer was out of contract – which, as seen on the previous pages, is the most common transfer scenario – or because the clubs involved did not negotiate a transfer fee.

Of the total amount spent on transfer fees, clubs declared 84.3% as fixed transfer fees, 14.5% as conditional fees, and 1.2% as release (buy-out) fees.

As shown in Figure 8, the average fee decreased by 6.5% in 2019, from USD 2.9 million in 2018 to USD 2.7 million in 2019. Thus, the increase in total transfer fees is entirely attributable to the higher number of transfers with fees, which grew by 13.2% in 2019, from 2,371 in 2018 to 2,685 in 2019. Transfers with fees have increased in percentage terms too, from 14.3% to 14.9% of all transfers.

Fig. 6: Spending on transfer fees by year (USD billion)

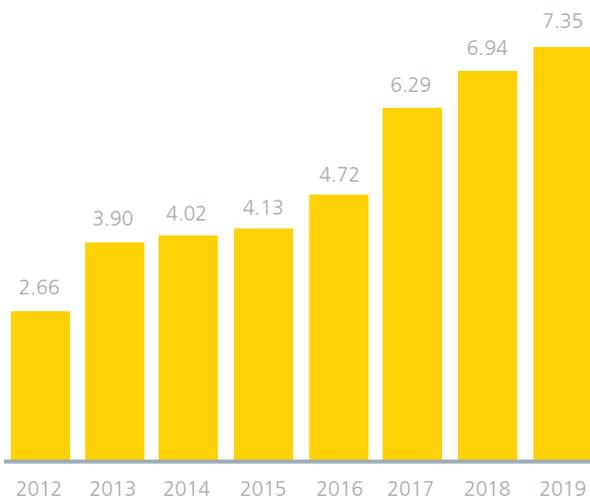


Fig. 7: Number of transfers by transfer fee (2019, in USD)

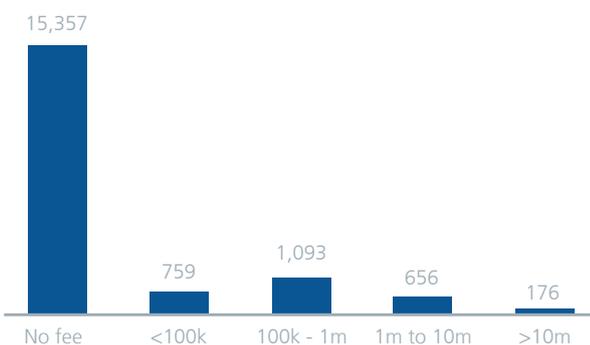


Fig. 8: Number of transfers with fees and average transfer fee by year

Year	Number of transfers with fees	Average transfer fee (USD)
2011	1,592	1.8 million
2012	1,601	1.7 million
2013	1,682	2.3 million
2014	1,671	2.4 million
2015	1,781	2.3 million
2016	2,024	2.3 million
2017	2,349	2.7 million
2018	2,371	2.9 million
2019	2,685	2.7 million

**Sell-on fees**

In 1,704 transfers (9.4% of the total 18,042) the two clubs included a sell-on fee, meaning that, if the player were to leave his new club in the future, the former club would receive a percentage of any transfer fee generated from this future transfer.

In any given transfer, the two clubs may agree on adding sell-on fees on top of transfer fees<sup>1</sup> or instead of them. In 2019, the former was largely more common than the latter. As shown in Figure 9, sell-on fees were included alongside transfer fees in 1,287 of the 2,685 transfers with fees completed in 2019 (47.9%), and in 417 of the 15,357 transfers without fees (2.7%).

Figure 10 shows that most sell-on fees were between 10% and 20% of the future transfer fee. Higher percentages are less common, although – perhaps not surprisingly – there is a spike at 50%, as clubs often agree to equally split future transfer fees. In 2019, this occurred in 185 transfers.

**Training rewards**

Aside from transfer fees and sell-on fees, international transfers may prompt the payment of solidarity contribution or training compensation. These two are referred to as training rewards, as they were conceived in order to reward clubs that trained players during their formative years. In the context of transfers completed in TMS in 2019, clubs declared a total of USD 63.3 million in solidarity contribution and a total of USD 12.2 million in training compensation.

Fig. 9: Percentage of transfers with sell-on fees (2019)

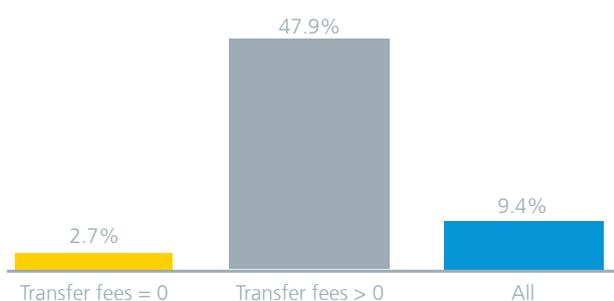
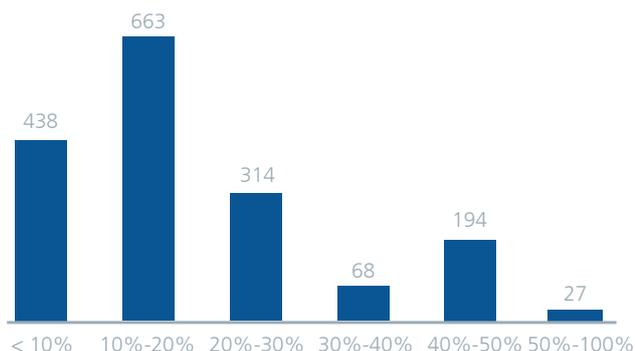


Fig. 10: Number of transfers by sell-on fee (2019)



<sup>1</sup> Transfer fees as defined in this report. See definitions on page 6.



# Volume of transfers

## Confederations

Among the six confederations recognised by FIFA, UEFA was the most active on the international transfer market in 2019: 1,914 clubs from 53 different European associations were on the engaging or the releasing side – or both – in 12,290 international transfers, representing 68.1% of all transfers completed in TMS in 2019. CONMEBOL was the only confederation where all affiliated associations were active on the transfer market, and the OFC was the confederation where the fewest transfers were completed, with a total of 13 incoming and 37 outgoing.

The incidence of different transfer types differed considerably between the six confederations. As seen in the previous chapter, 64.3% of all transfers completed in 2019 were of players out of contract. In transfers to clubs affiliated to CAF and the OFC, this was even more prominent (83.1% and 92.3% respectively), and only UEFA (57.3%) remained below the worldwide average.

The international transfer market is becoming more and more global with every passing year, but geographical proximity still plays a relevant role. As Figure 12 shows, in all confederations except the OFC and Concacaf, clubs both released and engaged players most often with other clubs within the same confederation.

Fig. 11: Number of incoming and outgoing transfers and involvement by confederation (2019)

	Incoming transfers	Outgoing transfers	Associations involved	Clubs involved
AFC	2,315	1,779	45 of 46	629
CAF	1,550	2,162	51 of 54	641
CONCACAF	1,373	1,137	19 of 35	308
CONMEBOL	2,486	2,834	10 of 10	668
OFC	13	37	1 of 11	2
UEFA	10,305	10,093	53 of 55	1,914
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18,042</b>	<b>18,042</b>	<b>179 of 211</b>	<b>4,162</b>

Fig. 12: Number of international transfers within and between confederations (2019). In parentheses, percentage change from 2018

Transfers		Engaging					
		AFC	CAF	CONCACAF	CONMEBOL	OFC	UEFA
Releasing	AFC	845 (-5.9%)	151 (+3.4%)	49 (+81.5%)	255 (+31.4%)	7 (0%)	472 (-7.1%)
	CAF	383 (-2.0%)	1,161 (+2.8%)	18 (-21.7%)	19 (-9.5%)	0 (n/a)	581 (+16.0%)
	CONCACAF	52 (+8.3%)	12 (+33.3%)	457 (-1.5%)	324 (+3.8%)	0 (n/a)	292 (+7.7%)
	CONMEBOL	273 (+8.8%)	18 (-18.2%)	482 (+3.4%)	1,225 (+9.1%)	0 (n/a)	836 (+9.1%)
	OFC	15 (+50.0%)	2 (-33.3%)	4 (+100%)	0 (-100%)	0 (n/a)	16 (+14.3%)
	UEFA	747 (+20.1%)	206 (+4.6%)	363 (+76.2%)	663 (+19.7%)	6 (-14.3%)	8,108 (+10.3%)

### Associations

*Note: figures 14, 15 and 16 can be found from the next page onwards.*

As shown in Figure 14, Brazil was by far the association with the most clubs actively involved in international transfers in 2019, with 306. This is more than double the figure of any other association and it represents a 21.9% increase from the previous year. Germany and Spain ranked second and third, with 144 and 130 clubs respectively.

Brazil was also the association whose clubs completed the most incoming transfers, a total of 831. This is 22.7% more than in 2018, the third-highest increase among the top ten associations behind the USA (+31.7%) and Germany (+28.3%). The next five associations in this ranking were from UEFA (England, Portugal, Spain, Germany and France), and the top ten was completed by USA, Argentina, Belgium and Italy (cf. Figure 15).

Brazilian clubs also recorded the highest number of outgoing transfers, a total of 948, 13.9% more than in 2018. In this case too, English clubs were the second most active with 874 outgoing transfers, followed by clubs from Spain with 729 and Portugal with 627, where there was a 28.2% increase in outgoing transfers from the previous year (cf. Figure 16).

The significant level of transfer activity of Brazilian and English clubs is also reflected in the most frequent transfer streams in 2019. As shown in Figure 13 below, one of these two associations was on either side in eight of the top ten transfer streams. The most common stream was – for the fifth straight year – that of players moving from Brazil to Portugal with 228 transfers (+11.2% vs. 2018), followed by that of transfers from England to Scotland (163) and from Portugal to Brazil (149).

Fig. 13: Top ten transfer streams by number of transfers (2019). In parentheses, percentage change from 2018

From	To	Transfers	
Brazil	Portugal	228	(+11.2%)
England	Scotland	163	(-2.4%)
Portugal	Brazil	149	(+18.3%)
Scotland	England	128	(+39.1%)
England	Wales	94	(-11.3%)
Spain	England	93	(+31%)
Russia	Armenia	92	(+39.4%)
Wales	England	84	(+16.7%)
England	Spain	72	(-11.1%)
Argentina	Chile	65	(+10.2%)

Fig. 14: Number clubs involved in international transfers by association (2019) and percentage change from 2018. In parentheses, global rank

AFC			CAF			CONCACAF		
	629			641			308	
Saudi Arabia (12)	62	+5.1%	Egypt (14)	55	+27.9%	Comoros	0	n/a
Japan (16)	54	0%	Nigeria (17)	52	-7.1%	Eritrea	0	n/a
China PR (27)	38	+11.8%	Ghana (23)	40	+5.3%	Guinea-Bissau	0	n/a
Thailand (38)	31	-6.1%	Morocco (32)	34	+6.3%	Madagascar	0	n/a
India (43)	29	-6.5%	Benin (47)	28	+40%	São Tomé e Príncipe	0	n/a
United Arab Emirates (56)	25	+8.7%	Tunisia (49)	27	+50%	Seychelles	0	-100%
Australia (59)	24	+41.2%	South Africa (52)	26	-18.8%	Somalia	0	n/a
Lebanon (62)	23	-4.2%	Zambia (52)	26	-10.3%	South Sudan	0	n/a
Oman (62)	23	-17.9%	Senegal (65)	22	0%	<b>CONCACAF</b>	<b>308</b>	
Malaysia (65)	22	0%	Cameroon (69)	20	-9.1%	USA (8)	78	+32.2%
Korea Republic (68)	21	+5%	Algeria (73)	19	+18.8%	Mexico (14)	55	-3.5%
Iraq (69)	20	-4.8%	Mauritius (80)	17	+88.9%	Honduras (32)	34	+9.7%
Indonesia (73)	19	0%	Swaziland (80)	17	+13.3%	Guatemala (38)	31	-6.1%
Jordan (73)	19	0%	Zimbabwe (86)	16	-5.9%	El Salvador (56)	25	-3.8%
Iran (80)	17	+30.8%	Kenya (88)	15	+15.4%	Costa Rica (62)	23	+4.5%
Qatar (80)	17	0%	Rwanda (88)	15	+7.1%	Panama (78)	18	0%
Uzbekistan (86)	16	-5.9%	Tanzania (88)	15	+15.4%	Canada (111)	11	+175%
Bahrain (88)	15	+15.4%	Uganda (88)	15	-28.6%	Nicaragua (116)	10	+11.1%
Kuwait (88)	15	+7.1%	Côte d'Ivoire (98)	14	+7.7%	Jamaica (126)	8	0%
Vietnam (88)	15	+25%	Mozambique (98)	14	-12.5%	Belize (131)	6	-14.3%
Bangladesh (102)	13	+8.3%	Botswana (102)	13	-13.3%	Dominican Republic (143)	4	-20%
Hong Kong (102)	13	+8.3%	Libya (102)	13	-18.8%	Trinidad and Tobago (148)	3	-50%
Syria (106)	12	+9.1%	Burundi (106)	12	+140%	Haiti (150)	2	0%
Myanmar (111)	11	+37.5%	Ethiopia (106)	12	+9.1%	Anguilla	0	n/a
Cambodia (116)	10	0%	Congo DR (111)	11	-15.4%	Antigua and Barbuda	0	-100%
Nepal (116)	10	-9.1%	Burkina Faso (116)	10	-33.3%	Aruba	0	n/a
Maldives (123)	9	+12.5%	Namibia (116)	10	0%	Bahamas	0	n/a
Mongolia (123)	9	+50%	Mali (123)	9	-10%	Barbados	0	n/a
Singapore (126)	8	+14.3%	Gambia (129)	7	+16.7%	Bermuda	0	n/a
Tajikistan (131)	6	-25%	Congo (131)	6	-25%	British Virgin Islands	0	n/a
Kyrgyz Republic (138)	5	0%	Guinea (131)	6	+20%	Cayman Islands	0	n/a
Palestine (138)	5	-37.5%	Lesotho (131)	6	+50%	Cuba	0	n/a
Philippines (143)	4	-33.3%	Sierra Leone (131)	6	+100%	Curaçao	0	n/a
Turkmenistan (143)	4	+100%	Angola (138)	5	-28.6%	Dominica	0	n/a
Brunei Darussalam (154)	1	0%	Djibouti (138)	5	-37.5%	Grenada	0	n/a
Chinese Taipei (154)	1	0%	Sudan (138)	5	0%	Guyana	0	n/a
Laos (154)	1	-50%	Niger (143)	4	-20%	Montserrat	0	n/a
Sri Lanka (154)	1	n/a	Togo (143)	4	+100%	Puerto Rico	0	n/a
Yemen (154)	1	0%	Liberia (148)	3	+50%	St. Kitts and Nevis	0	n/a
Afghanistan	0	n/a	Malawi (150)	2	-33.3%	St. Lucia	0	n/a
Bhutan	0	n/a	Mauritania (150)	2	-33.3%	St. Vinc. & the Grenadines	0	n/a
Guam	0	n/a	Chad (154)	1	-50%	Suriname	0	n/a
Korea DPR	0	n/a	Equatorial Guinea (154)	1	n/a	Turks and Caicos Islands	0	n/a
Macau	0	n/a	Gabon (154)	1	-66.7%	US Virgin Islands	0	n/a
Pakistan	0	n/a	Cape Verde Islands	0	-100%			
Timor-Leste	0	n/a	Central African Republic	0	n/a			

CONMEBOL	668	
Brazil (1)	306	+21.9%
Argentina (5)	107	-2.7%
Chile (29)	37	+2.8%
Colombia (31)	35	0%
Ecuador (32)	34	0%
Bolivia (35)	33	+22.2%
Peru (38)	31	+3.3%
Venezuela (42)	30	-14.3%
Uruguay (47)	28	-12.5%
Paraguay (49)	27	+3.8%
OFC	2	
New Zealand (150)	2	+100%
American Samoa	0	n/a
Cook Islands	0	n/a
Fiji	0	n/a
New Caledonia	0	n/a
Papua New Guinea	0	n/a
Samoa	0	n/a
Solomon Islands	0	n/a
Tahiti	0	n/a
Tonga	0	n/a
Vanuatu	0	n/a
UEFA	1,914	
Germany (2)	144	+2.1%
Spain (3)	130	+4.8%
England (4)	128	+6.7%
France (6)	97	-2%
Portugal (7)	80	0%
Sweden (9)	71	+4.4%
Italy (10)	69	-2.8%
Poland (11)	65	+12.1%
Turkey (13)	59	+5.4%
Norway (17)	52	-7.1%
Romania (19)	50	+11.1%
Russia (20)	47	+2.2%
Netherlands (21)	42	+10.5%
Ukraine (21)	42	0%
Greece (23)	40	+17.6%
Belgium (25)	39	+2.6%
Scotland (25)	39	+8.3%
Malta (27)	38	-7.3%
Cyprus (30)	36	0%
Austria (36)	32	+10.3%
Czech Republic (36)	32	+23.1%
Denmark (38)	31	+6.9%

Albania (43)	29	+20.8%
Belarus (43)	29	+38.1%
Hungary (43)	29	+3.6%
Switzerland (49)	27	+22.7%
Finland (52)	26	-18.8%
Serbia (52)	26	+4%
Israel (56)	25	-10.7%
Bulgaria (59)	24	-11.1%
Slovenia (59)	24	+4.3%
Croatia (65)	22	+10%
Georgia (69)	20	-9.1%
Montenegro (69)	20	+11.1%
Armenia (73)	19	+46.2%
Slovakia (73)	19	-17.4%
Iceland (78)	18	+5.9%
Bosnia and Herz. (80)	17	+6.3%
Kazakhstan (80)	17	+6.3%
Northern Ireland (88)	15	0%
Republic of Ireland (88)	15	-16.7%
Wales (88)	15	-11.8%
FYR Macedonia (98)	14	+27.3%
Latvia (98)	14	+40%
Estonia (106)	12	-7.7%
Luxembourg (106)	12	+50%
Azerbaijan (111)	11	-15.4%
Faroe Islands (111)	11	+37.5%
Kosovo (116)	10	+66.7%
Lithuania (116)	10	-28.6%
Moldova (126)	8	-20%
Gibraltar (129)	7	0%
Andorra (131)	6	0%
Liechtenstein	0	n/a
San Marino	0	n/a



Fig. 15: Number of incoming transfers by association (2019) and percentage change from 2018. In parentheses, global rank

AFC			CAF			CONCACAF		
	2,315		1,550		1,373			
Saudi Arabia (15)	283	-11%	Tunisia (42)	136	+81.3%	Gabon	0	-100%
Japan (38)	154	+12.4%	Egypt (49)	124	-1.6%	Guinea-Bissau	0	n/a
Thailand (45)	130	+11.1%	Benin (56)	108	+10.2%	Madagascar	0	n/a
China PR (48)	126	-14.3%	Morocco (61)	100	-3.8%	São Tomé e Príncipe	0	n/a
United Arab Emirates (50)	121	+49.4%	Zambia (63)	99	-25%	Seychelles	0	-100%
India (56)	108	-21.7%	South Africa (79)	70	-24.7%	Sierra Leone	0	n/a
Malaysia (64)	97	-4%	Ghana (88)	58	+34.9%	Somalia	0	n/a
Australia (65)	96	+52.4%	Swaziland (90)	56	+43.6%	South Sudan	0	n/a
Korea Republic (66)	88	-4.3%	Rwanda (91)	53	+15.2%	<b>CONCACAF</b>	<b>1,373</b>	
Qatar (69)	85	-2.3%	Nigeria (92)	52	+8.3%	USA (7)	411	+31.7%
Oman (71)	84	-17.6%	Mauritius (95)	48	+140%	Mexico (13)	296	+3.9%
Kuwait (74)	78	+25.8%	Uganda (97)	47	+6.8%	Canada (39)	152	+176.4%
Indonesia (75)	77	+20.3%	Burundi (102)	44	+193.3%	Honduras (61)	100	+19%
Iraq (77)	72	+33.3%	Cameroon (102)	44	-15.4%	Panama (66)	88	-13.7%
Lebanon (86)	61	+8.9%	Kenya (102)	44	+33.3%	Guatemala (69)	85	-19%
Uzbekistan (88)	58	+16%	Senegal (105)	43	0%	Costa Rica (71)	84	-3.4%
Iran (95)	48	+45.5%	Tanzania (108)	41	-4.7%	El Salvador (82)	65	-14.5%
Bahrain (97)	47	+80.8%	Algeria (111)	37	-14%	Nicaragua (107)	42	+133.3%
Hong Kong (97)	47	-7.8%	Congo DR (111)	37	+60.9%	Belize (126)	25	+66.7%
Vietnam (100)	46	+48.4%	Côte d'Ivoire (115)	35	+84.2%	Dominican Republic (135)	12	-7.7%
Bangladesh (105)	43	+26.5%	Mozambique (118)	32	+18.5%	Jamaica (137)	10	-41.2%
Jordan (109)	40	-27.3%	Guinea (121)	29	+141.7%	Trinidad and Tobago (149)	3	-83.3%
Tajikistan (110)	38	-9.5%	Botswana (123)	27	0%	Anguilla	0	n/a
Cambodia (113)	36	-28%	Zimbabwe (124)	26	+4%	Antigua and Barbuda	0	-100%
Kyrgyz Republic (113)	36	+80%	Ethiopia (127)	23	-37.8%	Aruba	0	n/a
Syria (115)	35	+2.9%	Burkina Faso (130)	21	-22.2%	Bahamas	0	n/a
Singapore (118)	32	+10.3%	Namibia (130)	21	-8.7%	Barbados	0	n/a
Nepal (120)	30	+7.1%	Libya (132)	20	-64.3%	Bermuda	0	n/a
Mongolia (122)	28	+100%	Lesotho (135)	12	-7.7%	British Virgin Islands	0	n/a
Myanmar (127)	23	+21.1%	Djibouti (137)	10	-44.4%	Cayman Islands	0	n/a
Maldives (129)	22	-26.7%	Angola (139)	9	-43.8%	Cuba	0	n/a
Philippines (133)	19	-26.9%	Sudan (139)	9	-25%	Curaçao	0	n/a
Palestine (139)	9	-52.6%	Mauritania (142)	8	-27.3%	Dominica	0	n/a
Turkmenistan (143)	7	+250%	Congo (143)	7	-61.1%	Grenada	0	n/a
Brunei Darussalam (147)	4	+33.3%	Niger (145)	5	-54.5%	Guyana	0	n/a
Chinese Taipei (149)	3	+200%	Togo (145)	5	+400%	Haiti	0	n/a
Laos (152)	2	-50%	Liberia (147)	4	-42.9%	Montserrat	0	n/a
Sri Lanka (152)	2	n/a	Malawi (149)	3	+200%	Puerto Rico	0	n/a
Afghanistan	0	n/a	Gambia (152)	2	-75%	St. Kitts and Nevis	0	n/a
Bhutan	0	n/a	Mali (155)	1	n/a	St. Lucia	0	n/a
Guam	0	n/a	Cape Verde Islands	0	n/a	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	0	n/a
Korea DPR	0	n/a	Central African Republic	0	n/a	Suriname	0	n/a
Macau	0	n/a	Chad	0	-100%	Turks and Caicos Islands	0	n/a
Pakistan	0	n/a	Comoros	0	n/a	US Virgin Islands	0	n/a
Timor-Leste	0	n/a	Equatorial Guinea	0	n/a			
Yemen	0	n/a	Eritrea	0	n/a			

CONMEBOL	2,486	
Brazil (1)	831	+22.7%
Argentina (8)	387	+11.2%
Colombia (22)	225	+23.6%
Uruguay (23)	207	+13.1%
Chile (29)	179	+6.5%
Paraguay (30)	173	+10.2%
Bolivia (44)	133	+29.1%
Ecuador (47)	128	+10.3%
Venezuela (53)	112	-31.7%
Peru (54)	111	+0.9%
OFC	13	
New Zealand (134)	13	-7.1%
American Samoa	0	n/a
Cook Islands	0	n/a
Fiji	0	n/a
New Caledonia	0	n/a
Papua New Guinea	0	n/a
Samoa	0	n/a
Solomon Islands	0	n/a
Tahiti	0	n/a
Tonga	0	n/a
Vanuatu	0	n/a
UEFA	10305	
England (2)	694	+6.6%
Portugal (3)	654	+18.3%
Spain (4)	618	+14.2%
Germany (5)	485	+28.3%
France (6)	417	+15.8%
Belgium (9)	383	+7.9%
Italy (10)	375	-3.4%
Romania (11)	311	+24.4%
Turkey (12)	301	+15.8%
Armenia (14)	286	+60.7%
Greece (16)	281	+5.2%
Scotland (17)	256	+1.6%
Netherlands (18)	254	+8.1%
Poland (19)	250	+19%
Cyprus (20)	246	-10.9%
Sweden (20)	246	+8.4%
Malta (24)	205	+10.2%
Ukraine (25)	198	+5.3%
Norway (26)	195	+6%
Denmark (27)	183	+15.8%
Czech Republic (28)	182	+40%
Russia (31)	171	+21.3%

Slovakia (32)	170	-5.6%
Croatia (33)	169	-14.6%
Albania (34)	164	+0.6%
Belarus (34)	164	+28.1%
Bulgaria (36)	161	+11.8%
Serbia (37)	157	-4.8%
Switzerland (39)	152	-5%
Austria (41)	144	+4.3%
Finland (42)	136	-17.1%
Bosnia and Herz. (45)	130	+20.4%
Slovenia (51)	117	+2.6%
Wales (51)	117	-9.3%
Hungary (54)	111	+6.7%
Israel (58)	104	+7.2%
Georgia (59)	101	-12.9%
Latvia (59)	101	+27.8%
Kazakhstan (68)	86	-18.1%
Luxembourg (73)	83	+118.4%
Lithuania (76)	76	-17.4%
Azerbaijan (77)	72	-6.5%
Estonia (79)	70	+75%
FYR Macedonia (79)	70	-12.5%
Montenegro (82)	65	+1.6%
Republic of Ireland (82)	65	-8.5%
Moldova (85)	63	+21.2%
Iceland (87)	60	-4.8%
Kosovo (93)	51	+131.8%
Northern Ireland (94)	50	+11.1%
Gibraltar (100)	46	-11.5%
Faroe Islands (117)	33	+22.2%
Andorra (124)	26	+4%
Liechtenstein	0	n/a
San Marino	0	n/a



Fig. 16: Number of outgoing transfers by association (2019) and percentage change from 2018. In parentheses, global rank

AFC			CAF			CONCACAF		
	1,779		2,162		1,137			
Saudi Arabia (23)	221	+99.1%	Nigeria (18)	245	+7.5%	Guinea-Bissau (166)	2	+100%
Japan (26)	203	+39%	Ghana (21)	226	-1.3%	Seychelles (166)	2	+100%
Korea Republic (42)	130	+4.8%	Côte d'Ivoire (38)	151	+18.9%	South Sudan (166)	2	+100%
China PR (47)	116	-21.1%	Cameroon (39)	138	+15%	Central African Rep. (173)	1	-50%
Thailand (49)	109	-9.2%	Egypt (46)	118	+15.7%	Eritrea	0	n/a
Australia (52)	104	-4.6%	South Africa (51)	105	+40%	Mauritius	0	-100%
Malaysia (66)	78	+4%	Tunisia (61)	91	-18.8%	São Tomé e Príncipe	0	n/a
India (75)	68	-17.1%	Senegal (63)	81	+6.6%	Somalia	0	n/a
United Arab Emirates (76)	66	-10.8%	Morocco (66)	78	-6%	<b>CONCACAF</b>	<b>1,137</b>	
Qatar (78)	63	-16%	Congo DR (73)	70	-35.2%	USA (12)	344	+12.8%
Oman (80)	61	-26.5%	Algeria (80)	61	+84.8%	Mexico (13)	309	+0.7%
Uzbekistan (80)	61	+22%	Togo (80)	61	0%	Costa Rica (68)	77	+4.1%
Iran (88)	52	-22.4%	Libya (86)	55	+103.7%	Canada (71)	73	-20.7%
Indonesia (96)	44	+4.8%	Mali (89)	50	+4.2%	Panama (73)	70	+18.6%
Kuwait (100)	39	+143.8%	Uganda (90)	48	-15.8%	Guatemala (86)	55	-8.3%
Jordan (107)	34	-39.3%	Zimbabwe (94)	46	+43.8%	Honduras (90)	48	+11.6%
Iraq (109)	31	0%	Rwanda (97)	43	+48.3%	El Salvador (93)	47	+9.3%
Lebanon (111)	30	-37.5%	Zambia (98)	42	-6.7%	Nicaragua (109)	31	-24.4%
Bahrain (112)	27	-40%	Tanzania (99)	40	+48.1%	Trinidad and Tobago (113)	25	+31.6%
Hong Kong (114)	24	-41.5%	Burkina Faso (100)	39	+5.4%	Jamaica (123)	18	+50%
Kyrgyz Republic (114)	24	+60%	Kenya (100)	39	0%	Dominican Republic (137)	11	+37.5%
Maldives (119)	20	-23.1%	Guinea (105)	36	-10%	Belize (145)	8	+166.7%
Philippines (119)	20	+17.6%	Gambia (106)	35	+29.6%	Cuba (148)	7	+600%
Tajikistan (125)	17	+30.8%	Burundi (114)	24	-17.2%	Haiti (148)	7	+75%
Vietnam (130)	14	-22.2%	Congo (117)	21	-43.2%	Puerto Rico (166)	2	-88.9%
Myanmar (131)	13	+30%	Gabon (117)	21	-16%	St. Kitts and Nevis (166)	2	+100%
Singapore (131)	13	-50%	Mozambique (122)	19	-29.6%	Suriname (166)	2	-75%
Cambodia (134)	12	-7.7%	Sudan (123)	18	-25%	Antigua & Barbuda (173)	1	n/a
Palestine (134)	12	0%	Botswana (126)	16	+14.3%	Anguilla	0	n/a
Mongolia (137)	11	+22.2%	Ethiopia (126)	16	+100%	Aruba	0	n/a
Syria (141)	10	-60%	Angola (128)	15	-34.8%	Bahamas	0	n/a
Laos (142)	9	+12.5%	Mauritania (128)	15	+36.4%	Barbados	0	n/a
Bangladesh (150)	6	-50%	Swaziland (134)	12	-25%	Bermuda	0	-100%
Macau (150)	6	+20%	Benin (137)	11	+37.5%	British Virgin Islands	0	n/a
Timor-Leste (154)	5	+150%	Namibia (137)	11	0%	Cayman Islands	0	n/a
Turkmenistan (154)	5	0%	Niger (142)	9	-30.8%	Curaçao	0	-100%
Nepal (157)	4	+300%	Chad (145)	8	-20%	Dominica	0	n/a
Yemen (157)	4	-42.9%	Sierra Leone (145)	8	+33.3%	Grenada	0	n/a
Bhutan (161)	3	+200%	Equatorial Guinea (150)	6	0%	Guyana	0	n/a
Brunei Darussalam (161)	3	-25%	Liberia (150)	6	+50%	Montserrat	0	n/a
Chinese Taipei (161)	3	n/a	Djibouti (154)	5	n/a	St. Lucia	0	n/a
Afghanistan (173)	1	-50%	Madagascar (157)	4	-20%	St. Vinc. & the Grenadines	0	-100%
Guam (173)	1	n/a	Malawi (157)	4	-55.6%	Turks and Caicos Islands	0	n/a
Korea DPR (173)	1	-80%	Cape Verde Islands (161)	3	+200%	US Virgin Islands	0	n/a
Sri Lanka (173)	1	-50%	Lesotho (161)	3	-40%			
Pakistan	0	n/a	Comoros (166)	2	n/a			

CONMEBOL	2,834	
Brazil (1)	948	+13.9%
Argentina (6)	536	+0.4%
Colombia (10)	356	-11%
Uruguay (20)	230	-2.5%
Paraguay (31)	179	+54.3%
Chile (32)	174	+39.2%
Venezuela (40)	136	-3.5%
Ecuador (45)	119	+32.2%
Peru (64)	79	-8.1%
Bolivia (68)	77	+13.2%
OFC	37	
New Zealand (104)	37	+23.3%
American Samoa	0	n/a
Cook Islands	0	n/a
Fiji	0	n/a
New Caledonia	0	n/a
Papua New Guinea	0	n/a
Samoa	0	n/a
Solomon Islands	0	-100%
Tahiti	0	n/a
Tonga	0	n/a
Vanuatu	0	-100%
UEFA	10093	
England (2)	874	+6.8%
Spain (3)	729	+18%
Portugal (4)	627	+28.2%
France (5)	550	+18.5%
Italy (7)	447	+6.9%
Germany (8)	431	+6.9%
Belgium (9)	385	+20.3%
Netherlands (11)	350	+25.4%
Russia (13)	309	+17.5%
Greece (15)	302	+8.6%
Serbia (16)	249	-7.4%
Turkey (16)	249	+6%
Sweden (19)	237	+3.9%
Ukraine (22)	223	+17.4%
Scotland (24)	220	+21.5%
Croatia (25)	217	-0.9%
Denmark (27)	181	+12.4%
Poland (27)	181	-8.6%
Romania (27)	181	+19.1%
Switzerland (30)	180	+17.6%
Czech Republic (32)	174	+10.8%
Slovakia (34)	171	+22.1%

Austria (35)	163	+7.9%
Cyprus (36)	160	-5.3%
Norway (36)	160	+3.9%
Israel (41)	135	+32.4%
Finland (43)	127	+15.5%
Bulgaria (44)	121	+16.3%
Bosnia and Herz. (48)	112	+21.7%
Wales (50)	106	+16.5%
Hungary (53)	103	+39.2%
Albania (54)	101	+12.2%
Latvia (55)	98	+53.1%
Belarus (56)	97	+11.5%
Malta (57)	96	+23.1%
Georgia (58)	95	+33.8%
Lithuania (59)	93	+14.8%
Slovenia (59)	93	-11.4%
Kazakhstan (62)	87	+4.8%
Armenia (64)	79	+68.1%
FYR Macedonia (68)	77	-1.3%
Moldova (72)	72	-1.4%
Republic of Ireland (76)	66	-22.4%
Iceland (79)	62	+31.9%
Kosovo (84)	58	+11.5%
Azerbaijan (85)	56	-3.4%
Estonia (90)	48	+50%
Montenegro (94)	46	+9.5%
Northern Ireland (100)	39	+30%
Luxembourg (107)	34	+54.5%
Gibraltar (119)	20	+66.7%
Andorra (131)	13	+333.3%
Faroe Islands (142)	9	-25%
Liechtenstein	0	n/a
San Marino	0	-100%



**Clubs**

A total of 4,162 clubs were involved in international transfers in 2019. The majority of them (56.8%) only completed incoming transfers. On the contrary, a small percentage (5.6%) exclusively completed outgoing transfers, and the remaining 37.5% of clubs both engaged and released at least one player internationally.

Figure 18 shows the distribution of the number of incoming and outgoing international transfers per club. During the past year, most clubs completed between two and five incoming transfers. Less than 10% of clubs completed more than ten transfers and only 39 clubs completed more than 20. The trend was similar for outgoing transfers, the main difference being the overall lower number of clubs involved, which is attributable to the large number of transfers of players out of contract. In such transfers, in fact, there is no releasing club.

Fig. 17: Number of clubs completing only incoming transfers, only outgoing transfers or both (2019)

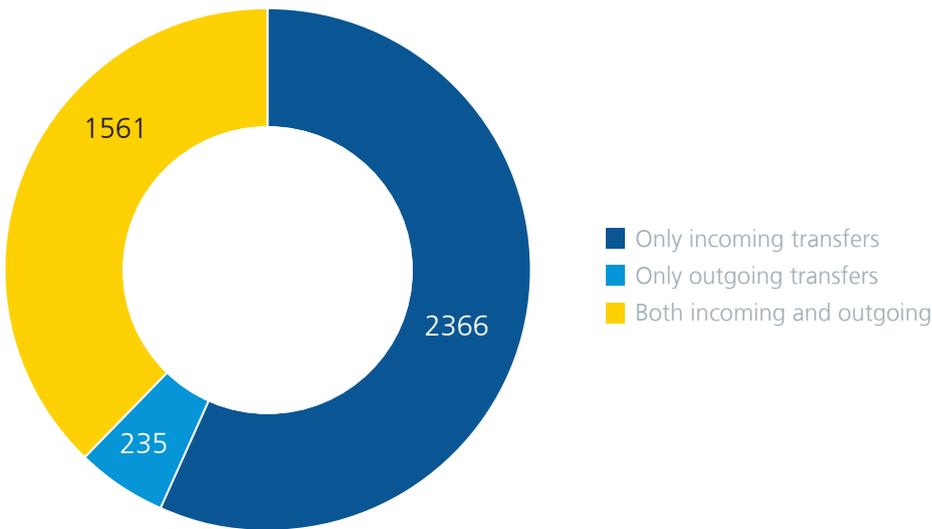
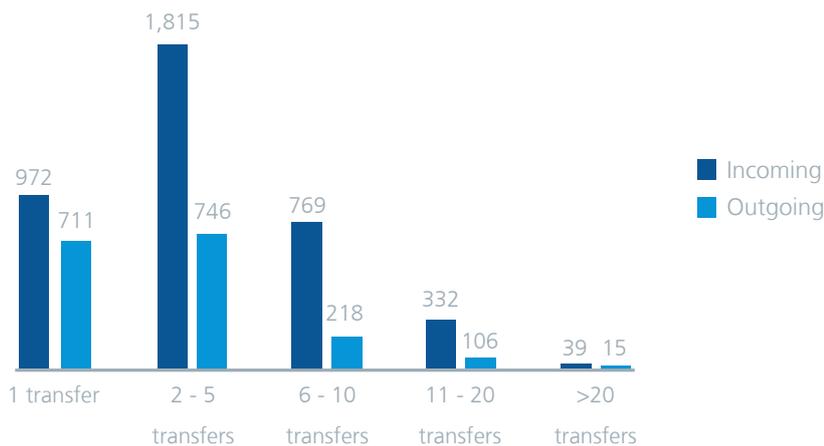


Fig. 18: Number of clubs by international transfers completed (2019)





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# Value of transfers

## Confederations

As shown in Figure 19, most of the transfer fees generated during 2019 were paid by or to European clubs, with the vast majority actually remaining within UEFA. The value of transfers within UEFA – USD 5.6 billion – corresponded to 76.2% of the total value of transfer fees

worldwide. The value of transfers to UEFA from any other confederation – USD 762.4 million – corresponded to 10.4%, and that of transfers from UEFA to other confederations – USD 588.9 million – corresponded to 8.1%. This means that all remaining transfers, i.e. those that did not involve a European club, accounted for only 5.3% of the total value of transfer fees in 2019.

Fig. 19: Value of international transfers within and between confederations (2019, as total transfer fees in USD million). In parentheses, percentage change from 2018

Transfers		Engaging					
		AFC	CAF	CONCACAF	CONMEBOL	OFC	UEFA
Releasing	AFC	37.6 (-2.6%)	9.7 (+250.1%)	6.4 (n/a)	10.7 (+23.6%)	0 (n/a)	54.3 (-42.9%)
	CAF	10.2 (-63.4%)	10.4 (+50.4%)	0.7 (-48.2%)	13.5 (+22,406.7%)	0 (n/a)	45.5 (-15.1%)
	CONCACAF	7.8 (-57.5%)	0 (-100%)	25.4 (+21.6%)	24.3 (+6.8%)	0 (n/a)	148.8 (+146.9%)
	CONMEBOL	60.1 (-25.8%)	6.5 (-78.0%)	113.8 (-4.5%)	54.5 (-29.9%)	0 (n/a)	513.0 (+15.3%)
	OFC	0 (n/a)	0 (n/a)	0 (n/a)	0 (n/a)	0 (n/a)	0.9 (n/a)
	UEFA	423.2 (+60.7%)	14.3 (+1,885.8%)	91.5 (+6.6%)	62.4 (+6.3%)	0.1 (n/a)	5,600.1 (+3.3%)

## Associations

*Note: figures 21, 22 and 23 can be found from the next page onwards.*

The five associations often referred to as the Big 5 (England, Spain, Italy, Germany, and France) were the top spenders in 2019 (cf. Figure 21). Clubs from these five associations combined for a total spend of USD 5.0 billion, 68.7% of all spending on transfer fees worldwide during the year. Among them, the largest increase was recorded by French clubs (+47.5%), while the largest decrease was recorded by English clubs, who topped the ranking once again despite spending 22.1% less on transfer fees than in 2018. After the Big 5 came China PR (USD 298.2 million, +55.7%), followed by Russia (USD 285.6 million, a 249.7% increase from 2018).

Figure 22 shows the total receipts from transfer fees for each of the 211 member associations. England (USD 968.8 million, +4.3%), France (USD 935.3 million, +1.4%) and Spain (USD 912.8

million, +1.9%) were the top three, each of them having released players for over USD 900 million. Portugal ranked fourth with USD 564.5 million (+48.4%). The Netherlands, seventh with USD 406.2 million in receipts, had the largest year-over-year increase among the top ten (+164.2%). Brazil was the first non-UEFA association, ranking eighth with USD 371.6 million (-2.3%).

As shown in Figure 23, Portugal recorded the largest positive net value of transfer fees, with a balance of USD 384.0 million. Second and third were Brazil and the Netherlands with USD 299.0 and 273.6 million respectively. On the other hand, England (USD -549.9 million), Spain (USD -373.8 million) and Italy (USD -346.2 million) recorded the three largest negative balances.

Figure 20 shows the top ten transfer streams in terms of value in 2019. In light of the numbers above, it is not surprising that all but one of these transfer streams were between countries of the Big 5.

Fig. 20: Top ten transfer streams by total transfer fees in USD million (2019). In parentheses, percentage change from 2018

From	To	Transfers	
France	England	398.1	(+26.4%)
England	Spain	339	(-24.2%)
Spain	England	266.9	(-28.3%)
Portugal	Spain	261.2	(+362.6%)
France	Spain	234.2	(-33.9%)
Italy	England	209.1	(-24.2%)
Germany	England	209.1	(-38.2%)
England	Italy	184.7	(+165.7%)
Spain	France	163.2	(+2385.2%)
Spain	Germany	144.2	(+400.8%)

Fig. 21: Value of incoming transfers by association (2019, as total transfer fees in USD million) and percentage change from 2018. In parentheses, global rank

AFC			CAF			CONCACAF		
	538.9		40.8		237.8			
China PR (6)	298.2	+55.7%	Egypt (24)	33.7	-4.2%	Seychelles	0	n/a
Saudi Arabia (10)	133.3	-23.2%	Tunisia (46)	2.9	+472.1%	Sierra Leone	0	n/a
Qatar (21)	43.8	+261.5%	South Africa (48)	2	-49.7%	Somalia	0	n/a
United Arab Emirates (26)	27.6	+58.4%	Morocco (50)	1.5	+20%	South Sudan	0	n/a
Japan (27)	24.6	-2.4%	Angola (63)	0.3	n/a	Swaziland	0	n/a
Korea Republic (39)	6.4	+20.4%	Congo DR (65)	0.2	+322%	Togo	0	n/a
Thailand (51)	1.4	+151.8%	Guinea (81)	0.1	-65.7%	Uganda	0	n/a
Malaysia (52)	1.3	+6.2%	Tanzania (84)	<0.1	+52%	Zimbabwe	0	n/a
Iran (54)	0.9	+1069.2%	Ghana (85)	<0.1	+25%	<b>CONCACAF</b>	<b>237.8</b>	
Australia (57)	0.5	+101.5%	Cameroon (87)	<0.1	+1217.9%	Mexico (13)	112.2	-2.2%
Kuwait (64)	0.3	-72.3%	Nigeria (89)	<0.1	+352.3%	USA (14)	107	-1.4%
Jordan (71)	0.2	n/a	Sudan (90)	<0.1	n/a	Canada (28)	18.4	+382.4%
India (73)	0.1	-6.7%	Zambia (90)	<0.1	-89.7%	Costa Rica (70)	0.2	+251.1%
Bahrain (76)	0.1	n/a	Côte d'Ivoire (93)	<0.1	+635.9%	Honduras (95)	<0.1	n/a
Iraq (78)	0.1	+42.9%	Kenya (96)	<0.1	n/a	Belize (97)	<0.1	n/a
Hong Kong (83)	0.1	-51.9%	Libya (97)	<0.1	-97.3%	El Salvador (102)	<0.1	-72.2%
Vietnam (92)	<0.1	-59.4%	Mozambique (100)	<0.1	-96.3%	Panama (103)	<0.1	n/a
Lebanon (99)	<0.1	n/a	Algeria	0	-100%	Anguilla	0	n/a
Afghanistan	0	n/a	Benin	0	n/a	Antigua and Barbuda	0	n/a
Bangladesh	0	n/a	Botswana	0	n/a	Aruba	0	n/a
Bhutan	0	n/a	Burkina Faso	0	n/a	Bahamas	0	n/a
Brunei Darussalam	0	n/a	Burundi	0	n/a	Barbados	0	n/a
Cambodia	0	n/a	Cape Verde Islands	0	n/a	Bermuda	0	n/a
Chinese Taipei	0	n/a	Central African Republic	0	n/a	British Virgin Islands	0	n/a
Guam	0	n/a	Chad	0	n/a	Cayman Islands	0	n/a
Indonesia	0	-100%	Comoros	0	n/a	Cuba	0	n/a
Korea DPR	0	n/a	Congo	0	n/a	Curaçao	0	n/a
Kyrgyz Republic	0	n/a	Djibouti	0	n/a	Dominica	0	n/a
Laos	0	n/a	Equatorial Guinea	0	n/a	Dominican Republic	0	n/a
Macau	0	n/a	Eritrea	0	n/a	Grenada	0	n/a
Maldives	0	n/a	Ethiopia	0	n/a	Guatemala	0	-100%
Mongolia	0	n/a	Gabon	0	-100%	Guyana	0	n/a
Myanmar	0	n/a	Gambia	0	n/a	Haiti	0	n/a
Nepal	0	n/a	Guinea-Bissau	0	n/a	Jamaica	0	n/a
Oman	0	-100%	Lesotho	0	n/a	Montserrat	0	n/a
Pakistan	0	n/a	Liberia	0	n/a	Nicaragua	0	n/a
Palestine	0	n/a	Madagascar	0	n/a	Puerto Rico	0	n/a
Philippines	0	n/a	Malawi	0	n/a	St. Kitts and Nevis	0	n/a
Singapore	0	n/a	Mali	0	n/a	St. Lucia	0	n/a
Sri Lanka	0	n/a	Mauritania	0	n/a	St. Vinc. & the Grenadines	0	n/a
Syria	0	n/a	Mauritius	0	n/a	Suriname	0	n/a
Tajikistan	0	n/a	Namibia	0	n/a	Trinidad and Tobago	0	n/a
Timor-Leste	0	n/a	Niger	0	-100%	Turks and Caicos Islands	0	n/a
Turkmenistan	0	n/a	Rwanda	0	-100%	US Virgin Islands	0	n/a
Uzbekistan	0	-100%	São Tomé e Príncipe	0	n/a			
Yemen	0	n/a	Senegal	0	n/a			

CONMEBOL	165.3	
Brazil (15)	72.5	+32.1%
Argentina (16)	67.1	-24.3%
Chile (37)	6.8	+35.7%
Paraguay (38)	6.8	+175.9%
Ecuador (40)	5.9	+290%
Colombia (45)	4.1	-68%
Uruguay (53)	1	+72%
Bolivia (56)	0.8	+528%
Peru (60)	0.3	-77.2%
Venezuela (88)	<0.1	-93.5%
OFC	0.1	
New Zealand (82)	0.1	n/a
American Samoa	0	n/a
Cook Islands	0	n/a
Fiji	0	n/a
New Caledonia	0	n/a
Papua New Guinea	0	n/a
Samoa	0	n/a
Solomon Islands	0	n/a
Tahiti	0	n/a
Tonga	0	n/a
Vanuatu	0	n/a
UEFA	6,363	
England (1)	1518.7	-22.1%
Spain (2)	1286.6	-4.2%
Italy (3)	873	+5.2%
Germany (4)	686.4	+42.9%
France (5)	684.2	+47.5%
Russia (7)	285.6	+249.7%
Belgium (8)	182.6	+22.9%
Portugal (9)	180.5	+55.3%
Netherlands (11)	132.6	+6.4%
Turkey (12)	112.3	+73.7%
Wales (17)	61.3	-34.9%
Austria (18)	48.4	+48.8%
Scotland (19)	45.3	-21.4%
Greece (20)	44.4	+110.9%
Ukraine (22)	36.1	-19.5%
Denmark (23)	33.8	+32%
Switzerland (25)	31.4	-7%
Czech Republic (29)	17.7	-20.6%
Serbia (30)	13	-73.8%
Hungary (31)	12.4	+112.5%
Croatia (32)	11.4	+18.5%
Poland (33)	11.1	+1.4%

Sweden (34)	9.1	-10.6%
Bulgaria (35)	8.6	+6.5%
Cyprus (36)	7.4	+116.1%
Romania (41)	5.4	-52.1%
Kazakhstan (42)	5.3	-23.6%
Norway (43)	5.1	-50.7%
Israel (44)	5.1	+91.4%
Slovakia (47)	2.1	-58.9%
Belarus (49)	1.9	+250.2%
Slovenia (55)	0.9	-41.3%
Iceland (58)	0.4	+709.6%
Azerbaijan (59)	0.4	-83.3%
Armenia (61)	0.3	+137%
Finland (62)	0.3	+263.5%
Moldova (66)	0.2	-19.7%
Bosnia and Herz. (67)	0.2	+813.7%
Georgia (68)	0.2	+2421.3%
Latvia (69)	0.2	-56.4%
Albania (72)	0.1	+21.6%
Estonia (74)	0.1	+33790%
Republic of Ireland (75)	0.1	+41.8%
Luxembourg (77)	0.1	+122.7%
Northern Ireland (79)	0.1	n/a
Malta (80)	0.1	-66.5%
FYR Macedonia (86)	<0.1	-84.8%
Kosovo (94)	<0.1	n/a
Faroe Islands (101)	<0.1	-83.4%
Andorra	0	n/a
Gibraltar	0	n/a
Liechtenstein	0	n/a
Lithuania	0	n/a
Montenegro	0	n/a
San Marino	0	n/a

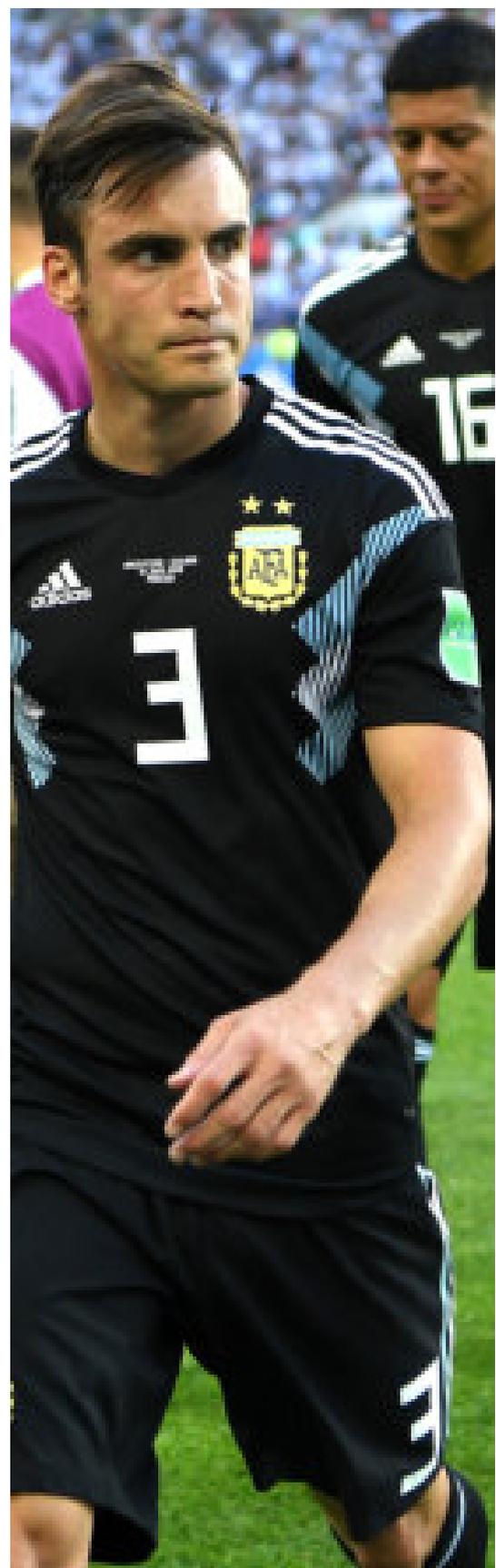


Fig. 22: Value of outgoing transfers by association (2019, as total transfer fees in USD million) and percentage change from 2018. In parentheses, global rank

AFC	118.7		CAF	80.3				
Japan (32)	29.4	+75.5%	Egypt (39)	17.5	-14.3%	Lesotho	0	n/a
Korea Republic (33)	26.6	+83%	Mali (42)	11	+25.8%	Madagascar	0	n/a
Saudi Arabia (36)	22.2	-28.2%	Tunisia (45)	9.7	+3.7%	Mauritius	0	n/a
Qatar (41)	13.6	+2617.5%	Algeria (48)	8	+447.3%	São Tomé e Príncipe	0	n/a
United Arab Emirates (46)	9.5	+9.6%	Morocco (50)	5.8	-62.3%	Seychelles	0	n/a
China PR (47)	8.4	-86.6%	Ghana (51)	5.6	-57%	Somalia	0	n/a
Iraq (65)	2	n/a	South Africa (57)	3.4	-60.2%	South Sudan	0	n/a
Australia (67)	1.9	-62.1%	Senegal (58)	3	+67.7%	Sudan	0	-100%
Thailand (68)	1.8	-13.7%	Cameroon (60)	2.7	-6.2%	<b>CONCACAF</b>	<b>206.2</b>	
Jordan (77)	1.1	+59%	Côte d'Ivoire (62)	2.2	+48.3%	Mexico (13)	109.7	+17.9%
Vietnam (79)	1	n/a	Angola (63)	2.1	n/a	USA (18)	59.5	+204.5%
Uzbekistan (88)	0.6	+1050%	Nigeria (64)	2	-4.5%	Canada (30)	30.4	+414.4%
Iran (93)	0.4	-70.8%	Congo DR (75)	1.2	+64%	Costa Rica (55)	4.2	+34.9%
Bahrain (109)	0.1	+25.4%	Zambia (76)	1.2	+46.9%	Panama (72)	1.4	-2.1%
Myanmar (112)	0.1	+67.4%	Guinea (86)	0.7	+102.7%	Honduras (95)	0.3	-47.2%
Palestine (121)	<0.1	n/a	Burkina Faso (87)	0.7	+8.2%	Jamaica (97)	0.3	+547.8%
Afghanistan	0	n/a	Namibia (89)	0.5	+1953.3%	El Salvador (100)	0.3	n/a
Bangladesh	0	n/a	Gambia (90)	0.5	+225.7%	Haiti (115)	0.1	n/a
Bhutan	0	n/a	Zimbabwe (94)	0.3	+44.6%	Trinidad and Tobago (126)	<0.1	-98%
Brunei Darussalam	0	n/a	Equatorial Guinea (96)	0.3	n/a	Anguilla	0	n/a
Cambodia	0	n/a	Uganda (99)	0.3	-43.4%	Antigua and Barbuda	0	n/a
Chinese Taipei	0	n/a	Kenya (102)	0.2	-1.5%	Aruba	0	n/a
Guam	0	n/a	Tanzania (103)	0.2	+595.6%	Bahamas	0	n/a
Hong Kong	0	-100%	Mauritania (104)	0.2	n/a	Barbados	0	n/a
India	0	-100%	Burundi (105)	0.2	+320.9%	Belize	0	n/a
Indonesia	0	n/a	Benin (106)	0.2	+703.3%	Bermuda	0	n/a
Korea DPR	0	n/a	Rwanda (107)	0.2	-23%	British Virgin Islands	0	n/a
Kuwait	0	-100%	Sierra Leone (108)	0.1	+726.7%	Cayman Islands	0	n/a
Kyrgyz Republic	0	n/a	Mozambique (110)	0.1	-1%	Cuba	0	n/a
Laos	0	n/a	Libya (111)	0.1	n/a	Curaçao	0	n/a
Lebanon	0	-100%	Botswana (113)	0.1	-64.6%	Dominica	0	n/a
Macau	0	n/a	Swaziland (116)	0.1	-48.4%	Dominican Republic	0	n/a
Malaysia	0	n/a	Liberia (117)	0.1	-2%	Grenada	0	n/a
Maldives	0	n/a	Malawi (119)	<0.1	+33.9%	Guatemala	0	n/a
Mongolia	0	n/a	Togo (120)	<0.1	-82.2%	Guyana	0	n/a
Nepal	0	n/a	Niger (122)	<0.1	+100%	Montserrat	0	n/a
Oman	0	-100%	Congo (124)	<0.1	-91.5%	Nicaragua	0	-100%
Pakistan	0	n/a	Chad (125)	<0.1	-1.5%	Puerto Rico	0	n/a
Philippines	0	n/a	Cape Verde Islands	0	n/a	St. Kitts and Nevis	0	n/a
Singapore	0	-100%	Central African Republic	0	n/a	St. Lucia	0	n/a
Sri Lanka	0	n/a	Comoros	0	n/a	St. Vinc. & the Grenadines	0	n/a
Syria	0	n/a	Djibouti	0	n/a	Suriname	0	n/a
Tajikistan	0	n/a	Eritrea	0	n/a	Turks and Caicos Islands	0	n/a
Timor-Leste	0	n/a	Ethiopia	0	n/a	US Virgin Islands	0	n/a
Turkmenistan	0	n/a	Gabon	0	n/a			
Yemen	0	n/a	Guinea-Bissau	0	n/a			

CONMEBOL	747.8	
Brazil (8)	371.6	-2.3%
Argentina (10)	211.8	+7%
Uruguay (20)	47.4	-14.6%
Colombia (22)	42.9	+14.9%
Ecuador (29)	30.7	+33.7%
Paraguay (37)	19.1	-21.7%
Chile (40)	16.6	-13%
Venezuela (54)	4.3	-38%
Peru (61)	2.4	-57.7%
Bolivia (78)	1.1	-52.3%
OFC	0.9	
New Zealand (80)	0.9	n/a
American Samoa	0	n/a
Cook Islands	0	n/a
Fiji	0	n/a
New Caledonia	0	n/a
Papua New Guinea	0	n/a
Samoa	0	n/a
Solomon Islands	0	n/a
Tahiti	0	n/a
Tonga	0	n/a
Vanuatu	0	n/a
UEFA	6,191	
England (1)	968.8	+4.3%
France (2)	935.3	+1.4%
Spain (3)	912.8	+1.9%
Portugal (4)	564.5	+48.4%
Germany (5)	539.7	-9.9%
Italy (6)	526.8	+1.4%
Netherlands (7)	406.2	+164.2%
Belgium (9)	295.6	+64.4%
Austria (11)	129.8	+85.6%
Turkey (12)	127.5	-12.6%
Russia (14)	100.4	+16.6%
Denmark (15)	81.5	-38.8%
Switzerland (16)	75.5	-43.5%
Wales (17)	69	+10.2%
Croatia (19)	48.8	-48%
Czech Republic (21)	43.8	+99.2%
Sweden (23)	41.5	-27.1%
Poland (24)	39.7	+40%
Ukraine (25)	35.3	-62.4%
Scotland (26)	33.6	-40.3%
Norway (27)	31.2	+76.6%
Serbia (28)	30.9	-34.1%

Greece (31)	30.2	-23.8%
Romania (34)	24.4	+32.2%
Israel (35)	23.3	+144%
Slovenia (38)	17.8	+43.4%
Bulgaria (43)	10.5	-32.5%
Slovakia (44)	10	-54.7%
Hungary (49)	6.7	+155.7%
Republic of Ireland (52)	4.8	+82.6%
Cyprus (53)	4.5	-90.9%
Bosnia and Herz. (56)	3.5	-45.7%
Belarus (59)	2.7	+77.1%
Iceland (66)	1.9	+12%
Finland (69)	1.8	-43.3%
Georgia (70)	1.6	+52%
Northern Ireland (71)	1.5	+96.6%
Latvia (73)	1.3	+0.5%
Kazakhstan (74)	1.2	-66.7%
Estonia (81)	0.9	+8.1%
FYR Macedonia (82)	0.9	+32.6%
Moldova (83)	0.8	-61.2%
Montenegro (84)	0.7	-9.3%
Lithuania (85)	0.7	-27.7%
Luxembourg (91)	0.5	+33.7%
Albania (92)	0.4	-83.8%
Azerbaijan (98)	0.3	-81.1%
Armenia (101)	0.2	+159.4%
Malta (114)	0.1	n/a
Kosovo (118)	<0.1	-78.9%
Faroe Islands (123)	<0.1	-85.9%
Andorra	0	n/a
Gibraltar	0	n/a
Liechtenstein	0	n/a
San Marino	0	n/a



Fig. 23: Net value of transfers by association (2019, as total receipts minus total spending on transfer fees in USD million). In parentheses, global rank

AFC		CAF		CONCACAF	
Korea Republic (18)	20.2	Mali (26)	11	Madagascar	0
Japan (33)	4.8	Algeria (28)	8	Mauritius	0
Iraq (45)	1.9	Tunisia (31)	6.8	São Tomé e Príncipe	0
Australia (53)	1.3	Ghana (32)	5.5	Seychelles	0
Vietnam (57)	1	Morocco (36)	4.3	Somalia	0
Jordan (58)	0.9	Senegal (39)	3	South Sudan	0
Uzbekistan (68)	0.6	Cameroon (40)	2.6	Sudan (26)	<0
Thailand (71)	0.4	Côte d'Ivoire (41)	2.2	Egypt (11)	-16.2
Myanmar (90)	0.1	Nigeria (43)	2	<b>CONCACAF</b>	
Palestine (98)	<0.1	Angola (46)	1.8	Canada (25)	11.9
Afghanistan	0	South Africa (50)	1.4	Costa Rica (37)	4.1
Bangladesh	0	Zambia (55)	1.1	Panama (52)	1.4
Bhutan	0	Congo DR (56)	1	Honduras (74)	0.3
Brunei Darussalam	0	Burkina Faso (65)	0.7	Jamaica (76)	0.3
Cambodia	0	Guinea (66)	0.6	El Salvador (80)	0.3
Chinese Taipei	0	Namibia (69)	0.5	Haiti (92)	0.1
Guam	0	Gambia (70)	0.5	Trinidad and Tobago (103)	<0.1
Indonesia	0	Zimbabwe (73)	0.3	Anguilla	0
Korea DPR	0	Equatorial Guinea (75)	0.3	Antigua and Barbuda	0
Kyrgyz Republic	0	Uganda (79)	0.3	Aruba	0
Laos	0	Mauritania (81)	0.2	Bahamas	0
Macau	0	Kenya (82)	0.2	Barbados	0
Maldives	0	Burundi (83)	0.2	Bermuda	0
Mongolia	0	Tanzania (84)	0.2	British Virgin Islands	0
Nepal	0	Benin (85)	0.2	Cayman Islands	0
Oman	0	Rwanda (86)	0.2	Cuba	0
Pakistan	0	Sierra Leone (87)	0.1	Curaçao	0
Philippines	0	Mozambique (88)	0.1	Dominica	0
Singapore	0	Libya (89)	0.1	Dominican Republic	0
Sri Lanka	0	Botswana (91)	0.1	Grenada	0
Syria	0	Swaziland (93)	0.1	Guatemala	0
Tajikistan	0	Liberia (94)	0.1	Guyana	0
Timor-Leste	0	Malawi (95)	<0.1	Montserrat	0
Turkmenistan	0	Togo (96)	<0.1	Nicaragua	0
Yemen	0	Niger (99)	<0.1	Puerto Rico	0
Lebanon (30)	<0	Congo (100)	<0.1	St. Kitts and Nevis	0
Bahrain (29)	<0	Chad (102)	<0.1	St. Lucia	0
Hong Kong (25)	-0.1	Cape Verde Islands	0	St. Vinc. & the Grenadines	0
India (22)	-0.1	Central African Republic	0	Suriname	0
Kuwait (21)	-0.3	Comoros	0	Turks and Caicos Islands	0
Iran (20)	-0.6	Djibouti	0	US Virgin Islands	0
Malaysia (18)	-1.3	Eritrea	0	Belize (28)	0
United Arab Emirates (10)	-18.1	Ethiopia	0	Mexico (17)	-2.5
Qatar (9)	-30.3	Gabon	0	USA (8)	-47.5
Saudi Arabia (7)	-111.1	Guinea-Bissau	0		
China PR (4)	-289.7	Lesotho	0		

CONMEBOL	
Brazil (2)	299
Argentina (5)	144.7
Uruguay (9)	46.4
Colombia (11)	38.8
Ecuador (17)	24.8
Paraguay (24)	12.4
Chile (27)	9.8
Venezuela (35)	4.3
Peru (42)	2.1
Bolivia (77)	0.3
OFC	
New Zealand (59)	0.9
American Samoa	0
Cook Islands	0
Fiji	0
New Caledonia	0
Papua New Guinea	0
Samoa	0
Solomon Islands	0
Tahiti	0
Tonga	0
Vanuatu	0
UEFA	
Portugal (1)	384
Netherlands (3)	273.6
France (4)	251.1
Belgium (6)	113
Austria (7)	81.4
Denmark (8)	47.7
Switzerland (10)	44.1
Croatia (12)	37.4
Sweden (13)	32.4
Poland (14)	28.5
Czech Republic (15)	26.1
Norway (16)	26
Romania (19)	18.9
Israel (20)	18.2
Serbia (21)	17.9
Slovenia (22)	16.9
Turkey (23)	15.2
Slovakia (29)	7.9
Wales (30)	7.6
Republic of Ireland (34)	4.7
Bosnia and Herz. (38)	3.3
Bulgaria (44)	2

Iceland (47)	1.5
Finland (48)	1.5
Northern Ireland (49)	1.5
Georgia (51)	1.4
Latvia (54)	1.2
FYR Macedonia (60)	0.8
Belarus (61)	0.8
Estonia (62)	0.8
Montenegro (63)	0.7
Lithuania (64)	0.7
Moldova (67)	0.6
Luxembourg (72)	0.4
Albania (78)	0.3
Kosovo (97)	<0.1
Faroe Islands (101)	<0.1
Andorra	0
Gibraltar	0
Liechtenstein	0
San Marino	0
Malta (27)	<0
Azerbaijan (24)	-0.1
Armenia (23)	-0.1
Ukraine (19)	-0.7
Cyprus (16)	-2.9
Kazakhstan (15)	-4.1
Hungary (14)	-5.7
Scotland (13)	-11.8
Greece (12)	-14.2
Germany (6)	-146.7
Russia (5)	-185.1
Italy (3)	-346.2
Spain (2)	-373.8
England (1)	-549.9

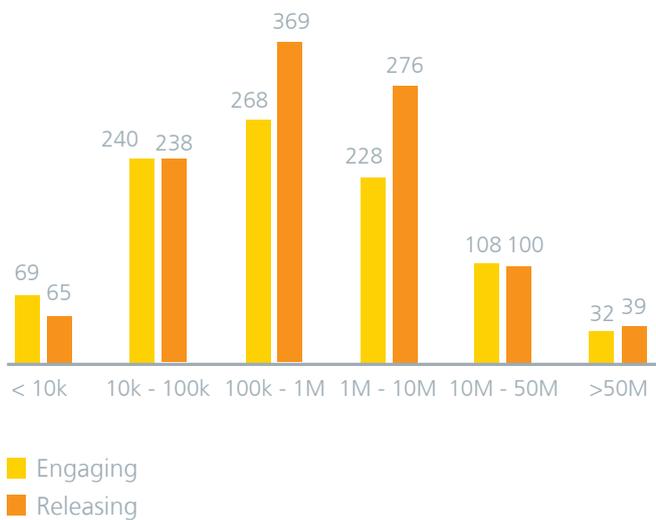


**Clubs**

A total of 945 clubs engaged at least one player by paying a transfer fee in 2019, up 12.2% from 842 in 2018. As shown in Figure 24, almost two thirds of them spent less than USD 1 million. Only 140 clubs spent more than USD 10 million, and only 32 of them spent more than USD 50 million, yet these 32 accounted for 53.3% of all spending on transfer fees worldwide.

In terms of receipts from outgoing transfers, the distribution is similar. A total of 1,087 clubs received payments of transfer fees from their outgoing international transfers, but 61.8% of them received less than USD 1 million and only 39 clubs received more than USD 50 million.

Fig. 24: Number of clubs by total value of their international transfers (2019)





# Player characteristics

## Player age

A total of 15,463 players of 178 different nationalities were involved in the 18,042 international transfers completed in 2019. Their age range spanned more than three decades, with the youngest player transferred being 15 and the oldest 46 years old.

As shown in Figure 26, the frequency of the different transfer types varied depending on the age of the transferred player. Transfers out of contract were the most common type in all age

groups, but they were even more frequent for older players, accounting for almost the entirety of transfers of players aged 36 or older. Instead, permanent club-to-club transfers were relatively more common for players under 18, as they made up almost one third of all transfers in that group. Conversely, loans were more frequent for players in the next age group, 18 to 23.

Fig. 25: Number of international transfers by player age (2019)

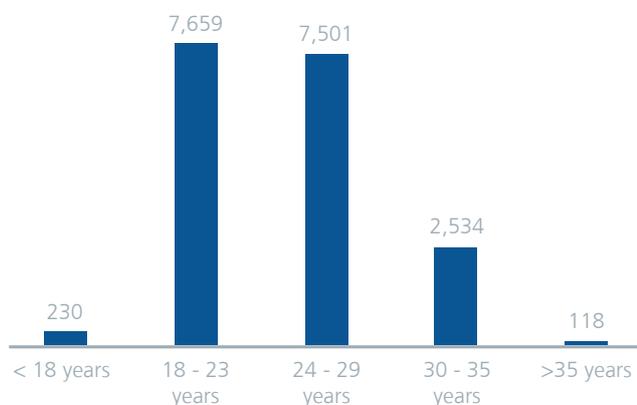


Fig. 26: Type of transfer by player age (2019)

Player age	Out of contract	Permanent	Loan	Return from loan	Loan to permanent	Loan extension
<18 years old <sup>2</sup>	56.5%	32.6%	8.3%	0.9%	1.3%	0.4%
18-23 years old	52.5%	14.2%	19.5%	11.1%	1.6%	1.1%
24-29 years old	68.7%	10.6%	10.8%	8.1%	1.1%	0.7%
30-35 years old	86.1%	5.5%	4.2%	3.5%	0.6%	0.2%
≥36 years old	97.5%	1.7%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

<sup>2</sup> Transfers of player under 18 only occur after approval of the respective minor application by a single judge of the FIFA Players' Status Sub-committee.

Figure 27 shows the average contract duration for players involved in international transfers in 2019. As one may expect, younger players tend to sign contracts with longer durations. In 2019, players transferred when aged between 18 and 23 signed contracts with an average duration of 21.7 months. This number decreases steadily for older players, and drops to an average of 10.9 months for players aged 36 or older.

A similar trend can be observed in Figure 28, with regard to the share of transfers with fees. In 2019, the percentage of transfers that included a transfer fee was 14.9%. This number is as high as 36.1% for players who had not yet turned 18, more than double than in any other age group. On the other hand, only three transfers of players aged 36 or older involved a transfer fee, which corresponds to 2.5%.

The breakdown based on sell-on fees in Figure 29 also reveals the same pattern. Sell-on fees were included in 27.0% of transfers of players under 18 years old, and in 14.3% of transfers of players between the ages of 18 and 23, but only in 1.4% of transfers of players aged 30 to 35 and never in transfers of players aged 36 or older.

Despite the high concentration of transfers with fees in the youngest age group, the total spending for these transfers was comparatively low. As shown in Figure 30, most of the spending on transfer fees occurred in transfers of players aged 18 to 23 (USD 3.8 billion, 51.8% of the total spending on international transfer fees in 2019).

Fig. 27: Average duration of contract with the new club by player age (2019)

Player age	Avg. contract duration
<18 years old <sup>2</sup>	27.6 months
18-23 years old	21.7 months
24-29 years old	17.8 months
30-35 years old	13.7 months
≥36 years old	10.9 months

Fig. 29: Percentage of transfers with sell-on fees by player age (2019)

Player age	% with sell-on fees
<18 years old <sup>2</sup>	27.0%
18-23 years old	14.3%
24-29 years old	6.9%
30-35 years old	1.4%
≥36 years old	0.0%

Fig. 28: Percentage of transfers with transfer fees by player age (2019)

Player age	% with transfer fees
<18 years old <sup>2</sup>	36.1%
18-23 years old	17.6%
24-29 years old	14.5%
30-35 years old	6.4%
≥36 years old	2.5%

Fig. 30: Value of transfers by player age (2019)

Player age	Total transfer fee (in USD million)	Avg. transfer fee (in USD million)
<18 years old <sup>2</sup>	78.9	1.0
18-23 years old	3,802.8	2.8
24-29 years old	3,058.3	2.8
30-35 years old	403.2	2.5
≥36 years old	2.3	0.8

<sup>2</sup> Transfers of player under 18 only occur after approval of the respective minor application by a single judge of the FIFA Players' Status Sub-committee.

### Player nationality

Of the 178 different nationalities represented by players involved in international transfers in 2019, Brazilian was by far the most common. There were 1,988 international transfers of Brazilian players – more than twice the number of those involving Argentinian players, second on this list with 946 transfers. British players were third on this list with 801 international transfers, and – among those in the top ten – had the largest increase from 2018, +15.8%. Players from these three countries have been the most represented in international transfers since the introduction of ITMS in October 2010.

Perhaps not surprisingly, Brazilians also generated the most transfer fees in 2019, with a total of USD 925.0 million. In other words, 12.6% of the global total spending during the year was used to engage Brazilian players. Despite remaining in the top spot, the total value of transfers of Brazilian players decreased 19.4% from 2018. Instead, the value generated by transfers of French players increased by 14.4%, leaving them in second place with USD 826.7 million.

Fig. 31: Top 10 player nationalities by number of transfers (2019). In parentheses, change from 2018

Nationality	Transfers	
Brazilian	1,988	(+13.4%)
Argentinian	946	(+6.1%)
British	801	(+15.8%)
French	726	(+8.5%)
Colombian	633	(+2.9%)
Spanish	542	(+10.8%)
Nigerian	508	(+0.2%)
Ghanaian	444	(+6.5%)
Serbian	425	(-5.1%)
Uruguayan	423	(+11.6%)

Fig. 32: Top 10 player nationalities by value of transfers (2019). In parentheses, change from 2018

Nationality	Spending (USD million)	
Brazilian	925.0	(-19.4%)
French	826.7	(+14.4%)
Portuguese	544.5	(-5.1%)
Belgian	500.4	(+194.9%)
Spanish	460.9	(-22%)
Argentinian	397.1	(+7.5%)
Dutch	386.2	(+63.4%)
British	277.9	(+47.2%)
Croatian	230.0	(+52.3%)
Italian	153.6	(-23.8%)



# Minors

## Introduction

Article 1 of Annexe 2 of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (RSTP) requires the International Transfer Matching System (ITMS) to also be used in the context of so-called minor applications. The term “minor” indicates a player who has not yet reached the age of 18, while “application” refers to the submission of a request through ITMS by the engaging member association for one of two instances:

1. International transfer: a minor of any nationality who has previously been registered with a club at one association is registered with a club at a new association.
2. First registration: a minor who has never previously been registered with a club and is not a national of the country in which he/she wishes to be registered for the first time.

As a general rule, international transfers and first registrations of foreign players are only permitted if the player is over the age of 18. However, there are exceptions to this rule.

The first three exceptions and the so-called five-year rule are outlined in the RSTP, and can be summarised as follows:

- a) the parents of the player moved to the new country for reasons not linked to football;
- b) the player is aged between 16 and 18 and is moving within the territory of the EU/EEA;

- c) both the player’s domicile and the new club are within 50km of their common borders and the distance between the two is under 100km;
- d) the player has lived continuously for at least the last five years in the country of intended first registration prior to the request.

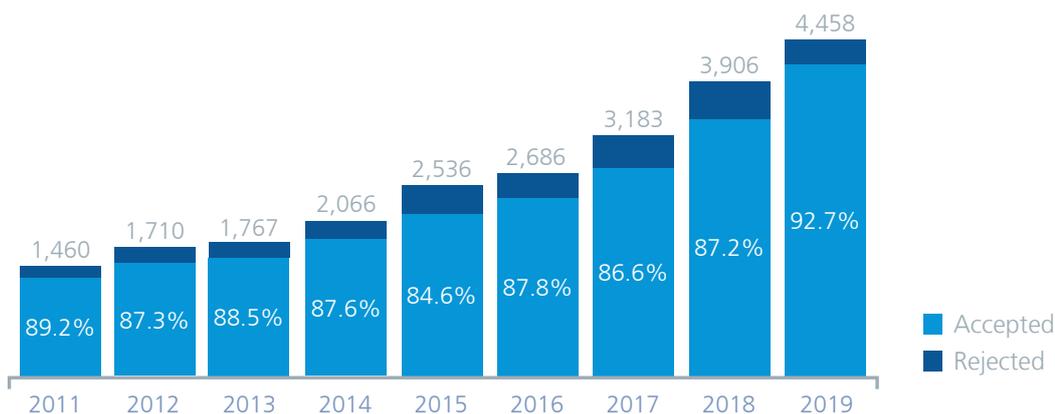
With high reservation and under very specific circumstances only, two additional exceptions are recognised by FIFA for certain groups of minor players based on jurisprudence<sup>3</sup>, and can be summarised as follows:

- e) the player moving due to humanitarian reasons without his/her parents could not be expected to return to his/her country of origin (“unaccompanied refugee player”);
- f) the player’s education was clearly the primary reason for the move without his/her parents and the duration did not exceed one year (“exchange student player”).

## Number of minor applications

Of all minor applications created in 2019 in TMS, 4,458 have been decided upon to date, meaning they were either approved or rejected by a single judge of the sub-committee of the FIFA Players’ Status Committee. It is important to note that this number is subject to change. The sub-committee reviews each application individually, and certain cases may require more time than others. Therefore, some of the applications submitted in 2019 may have not been approved or rejected yet.

Fig. 33: Minor applications decided upon, by year of creation



<sup>3</sup> In October 2019, the FIFA Council endorsed the proposal of the Players’ Status Committee to include the established jurisprudence regarding minors in the RSTP.

As shown in Figure 33, the approval rate of minor applications has increased from 87.2% in 2018 to 92.7% in 2019. This seems to be in large part attributable to two factors. First, a shift in the relative proportion of minor applications for certain reasons. For example, compared to the past, in 2019 there was a larger proportion of minor applications based on the “five-year rule” and the exception for “humanitarian reasons (with parents)”, which typically have a higher acceptance rate than others. The other factor that may explain the overall increase in the approval rate is the improved quality of the submitted applications. During the review of a minor application, FIFA might request additional documents from the association that submitted the application. While this is often a simple formality, in some cases it is a sign that there may not be enough evidence that an exception applies. Requests for additional documents are correlated with a higher rejection rate. In 2019, the share of

minor applications where one or more documents had to be added to the initial submission dropped to 28.4%, from 40.7% in 2018. This improvement is one of the objectives of the continuous training and cooperation between FIFA and its stakeholders and it proves how such cooperation is beneficial for all sides.

**Reasons**

Of the 4,458 minor applications created in 2019 and decided upon, 43.7% were for international transfers and 56.3% for first registrations. Figure 34 breaks these down according to the reason selected by the engaging member association in its minor application in ITMS. In total, there are seven possible reasons: five correspond to points b) c) d) e) and f) on the previous page, and two differentiate whether or not the move described in exception a) was for humanitarian reasons.

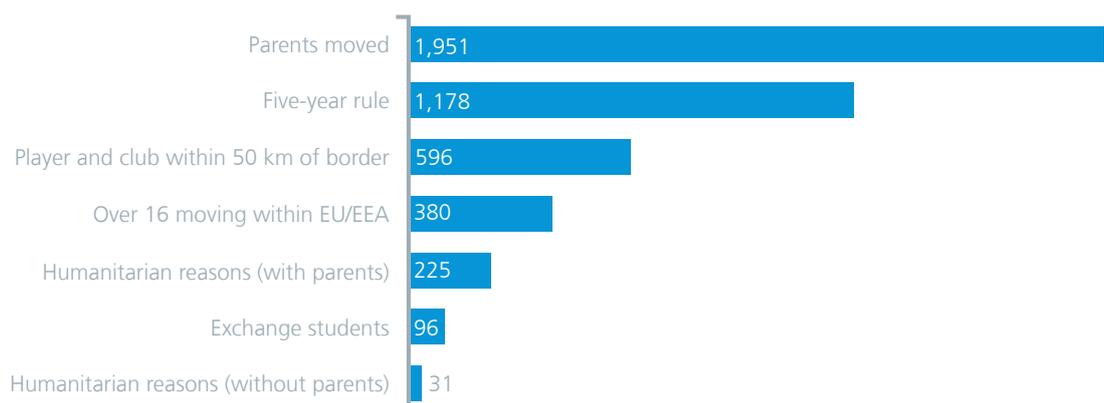
**Player age**

The highest number of minor applications were filed for 16-year-old players. This may be linked to two factors. Firstly, once a player turns 16, the exception in article 19, par. 2b of the RSTP can be applied, allowing minor players to move within the EU/EEA subject to certain conditions. Secondly, 16 is often the age when players can sign their first professional contract. Indeed, over a quarter of the applications for 16-year-olds are for players who transfer to play as professionals, a much higher rate than at any other age.

Fig. 35: Minor applications created in 2019 and decided upon, by player age



Fig. 34: Minor applications created in 2019 and decided upon, by reason



### Player status

The overwhelming majority of minor applications concerned minors moving to play as amateurs (94.5%), while in only 5.5% of applications was the minor transferring as a professional.

### Associations and nationality

Portugal was the association with the highest number of minor applications in 2019, a total of 449, 90.9% of which were approved. The United Arab Emirates were second (404 applications) and Qatar third (337). Reading this table, it is useful to keep in mind that due to the high numbers of first registrations and international transfers of minors at amateur level, the sub-committee of the Players' Status Committee may grant member associations the possibility of a "limited exemption" from the obligation to request authorisation via ITMS (cf. FIFA circular no. 1209). By reducing the number of minor applications, the limited exemption facilitates the participation of minors in amateur football while maintaining transparency. However, movements of underage players within the context of the limited exemption are not accounted for in this section.

Fig. 36: Minor applications created in 2019 and decided upon, by player status

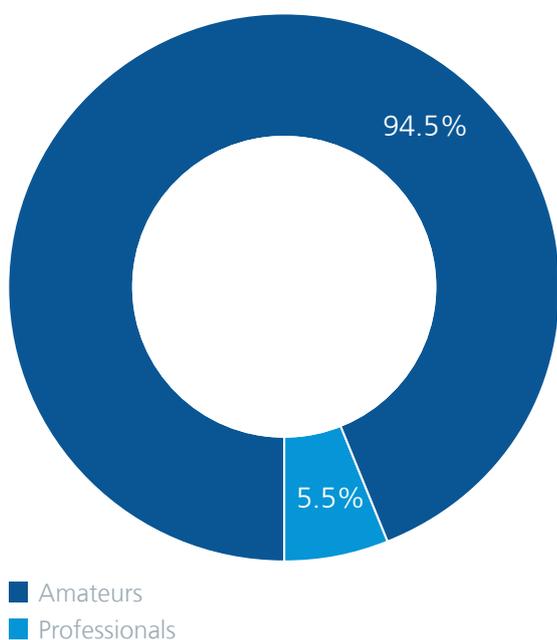


Fig. 37: Top ten member associations by number of minor applications created in 2019 and decided upon

Association	Minor applications	% approved
Portugal	449	90.9%
United Arab Emirates	404	99.8%
Qatar	337	98.8%
Spain	336	89.9%
USA	335	98.8%
England	196	95.9%
Italy	189	69.3%
Luxembourg	144	95.1%
Hungary	142	88.7%
Germany	139	97.1%

Fig. 38: Top ten player nationalities by number of minor applications created in 2019 and decided upon

Nationality	Minor applications	% approved
Brazilian	237	90.7%
Egyptian	216	99.1%
Venezuelan	206	95.6%
British	204	95.1%
Italian	151	94.7%
French	140	92.1%
Spanish	136	91.9%
USA	118	91.5%
Sudanese	107	99.1%
German	104	93.3%

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