

CIES Football Observatory Demographic Study

October 2026

List of leagues covered

UEFA					AFC				
	Country	League	Clubs	Players		Country	League	Clubs	Players
	Austria	Bundesliga	12	308		China	CSL	16	442
	Belgium	Pro League	18	470		Japan	J1 League	20	613
	Bulgaria	First League	14	353		Korea Republic	K League 1	12	370
	Croatia	HNL	10	280		Qatar	Stars League	12	293
	Cyprus	1. Division	14	356		Saudi Arabia	Saudi Pro League	18	466
	Czech Republic	Česká Liga	16	455		UAE	UAE Pro League	14	382
	Denmark	Superliga	12	305		Uzbekistan	Super League	16	427
	England	Premier League	20	533	CONCACAF				
	Finland	Veikkausliga	12	309		Country	League	Clubs	Players
	France	Ligue 1	18	446		Costa Rica	Liga FPD	10	291
	Germany	Bundesliga	18	467		Mexico	Liga MX	18	486
	Greece	Super League 1	14	383		USA	MLS	30	821
	Hungary	NB I	12	338	CONMEBOL				
	Israel	Ligat Ha'al	14	345		Country	League	Clubs	Players
	Italy	Serie A	20	544		Argentina	Primera División	30	920
	Norway	Eliteserien	16	400		Brazil	Brasileirão	20	648
	Poland	Ekstraklasa	18	477		Chile	Liga de Primera	16	450
	Portugal	Liga Portugal	18	486		Colombia	Dimayor	20	588
	Romania	Liga I	16	420		Ecuador	Liga Pro	16	457
	Russia	Premier Liga	16	419		Paraguay	Copa de Primera	12	403
	Scotland	Premiership	12	315		Peru	Liga 1	18	464
	Serbia	Super Liga	14	382		Uruguay	Liga AUF	16	460
	Slovakia	1. Liga	12	316		Venezuela	Liga	14	423
	Slovenia	1. SNL	10	255	The players included in the sample had to be present on October 1st 2026 in the first team squad of clubs in these 49 leagues and have played domestic league matches during the current season up to that date. If this was not the case, they had to have played at adult level (not including B teams) in each of the two previous seasons. Second or third choice goalkeepers were considered in all cases.				
	Spain	La Liga	20	522					
	Sweden	Allsvenskan	16	401					
	Switzerland	Super League	12	309					
	The Netherlands	Eredivisie	18	465					
	Turkey	Süper Lig	18	466					
	Ukraine	Premier Liha	16	426					