



FIFA[®]

INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER SNAPSHOT

January 2022

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OVERVIEW

For the first time since the outbreak of the pandemic, transfer fees and the number of transfers experienced significant growth.

Around 25% of annual transfers typically take place in the January transfer window, which serves as an opportunity for clubs to strengthen their squads, whether in the middle of the campaign (as is the case in most parts of the world) or ahead of a new season. Against the continuing backdrop of the pandemic, the number of international transfers of professional players rose by 28.0% in men's football, with 3,534 players on the move globally.

The majority of transfers involved out-of-contract players (60.4%), which do not usually include a transfer fee. Nevertheless, transfer fees totalling USD 1.03 billion were agreed between clubs, with most of the money (90.2%) spent by clubs from Europe. This constitutes a dramatic increase of 74.7% compared to the total outlay in January 2021.

In women's professional football, January transfers normally represent between 10% and 18% of the annual total. This year, there was an increase of 42.8% compared to January 2021, with 257 players changing countries last month.

As in the men's game, out-of-contract players (81.3%) accounted for the bulk of international transfers in women's professional football, with 209 such players joining a new team based overseas. Total spending on transfer fees amounted to USD 487,800, further underlining the continued growth of women's football witnessed in the past four years.



MEN'S PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL

Transfers and transfer fees

The number of transfers in the January window rose by 28.0% compared to 2021, with 3,534 transfers taking place in total.¹ With an increase of 74.7% compared to 2021, spending on transfer fees almost returned to pre-pandemic levels, standing at USD 1.03 billion.

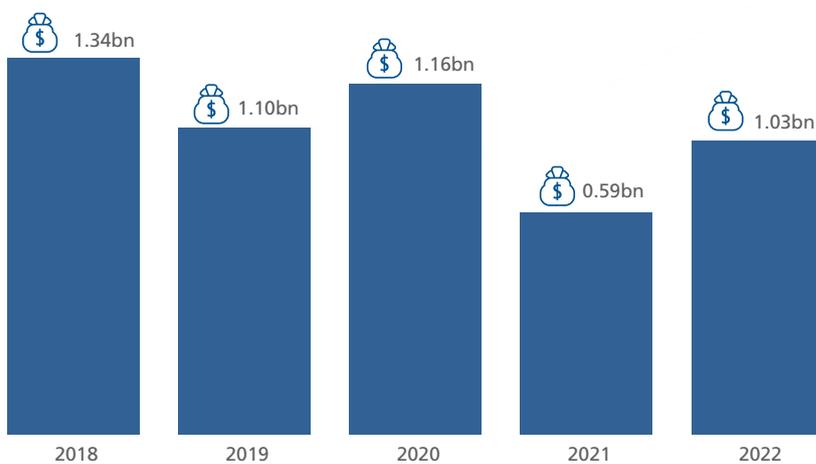


3,534
international
transfers in
January 2022,
an increase of
28.0%

Figure 1: International transfers during the January registration period



Figure 2: Transfer fees in USD during the January registration period



USD
1.03bn
spent on transfer
fees,
74.7% more than
in 2021

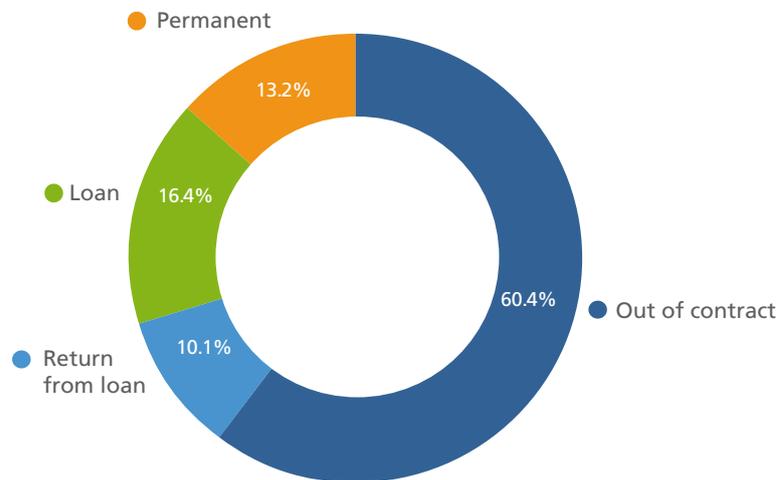
¹ At the time of publication, there were 414 pending transfers for which an International Transfer Certificate (ITC) had been requested by the engaging association in January 2022. If the releasing association issues the ITC in any of these transfers, the figures for this period will change accordingly.



Transfer types

Clubs mostly registered out-of-contract players moving across borders in January 2022 (60.4% of all transfers), albeit this rate is typically even higher during the rest of the year. Transfers that actively involved the releasing club were thus limited to 39.6% of the total (this includes releasing a player on loan, welcoming a player back from a loan spell and permanent transfers).

Figure 3: Transfers by type (January 2022)



60.4%
of all transfers
were of
out-of-contract
players



16.4%
of all transfers were
loans,
a decrease of 0.9
percentage points
compared to
January 2021



Transfers and fees by player age

As in previous years, the majority of transfers involved players in two age brackets: 18-23 and 24-29 years old (42.8% and 41.3% of all transfers respectively). Meanwhile, players in the younger of these two groups commanded the most spending on transfer fees, accounting for 57.3% of the total outlay in January 2022.

Figure 4: Transfers by player age (January 2022)

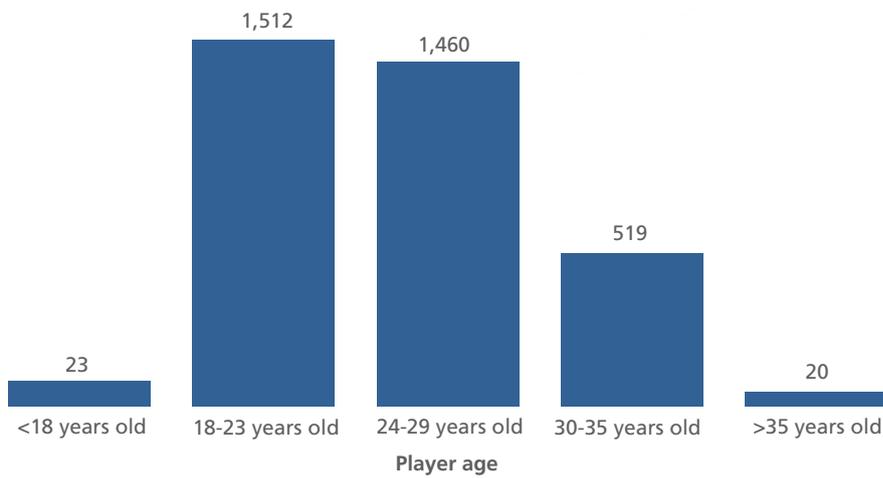
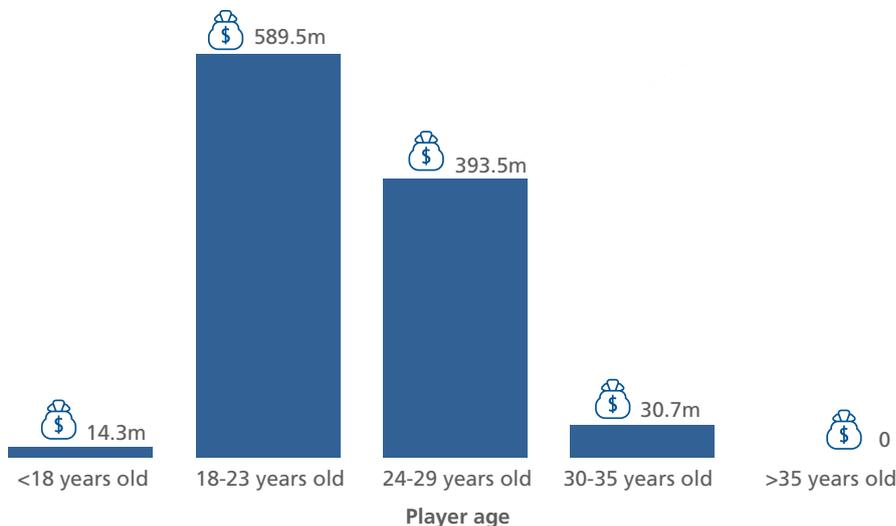


Figure 5: Spending on transfer fees in USD by player age (January 2022)



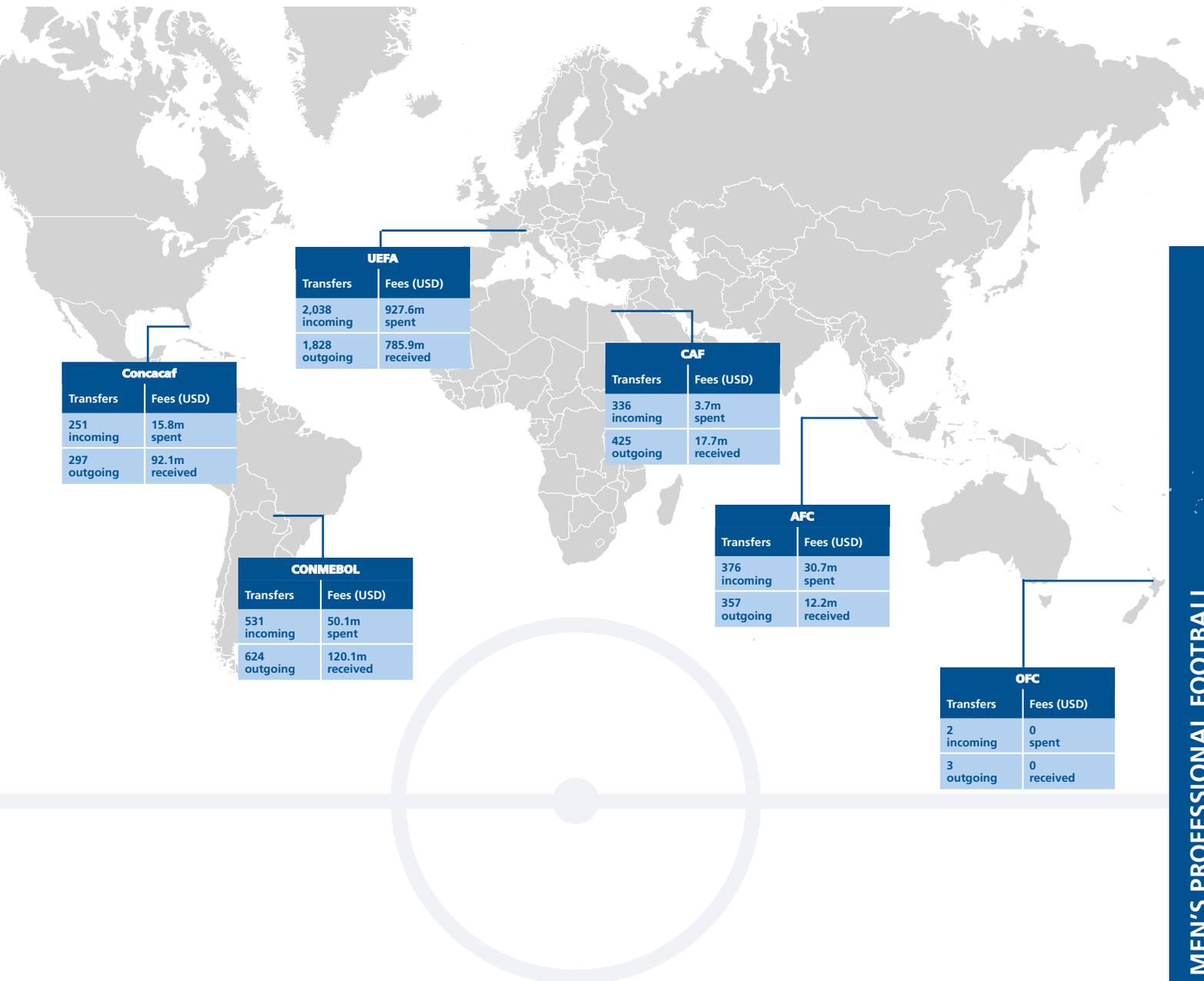
players aged 18-23 accounted for **42.8%** of the transfers and **57.3%** of the spending on transfer fees



Transfers by confederation

European clubs completed more transfers than clubs from any other confederation, with 57.7% of all transfers involving players moving to a club in Europe. Similarly, the USD 927.6 million spent by European clubs represents 90.2% of the global outlay on transfer fees during the January registration period and European clubs were also the principal recipients of such funds, pulling in USD 785.9 million or 76.5% of the global total.

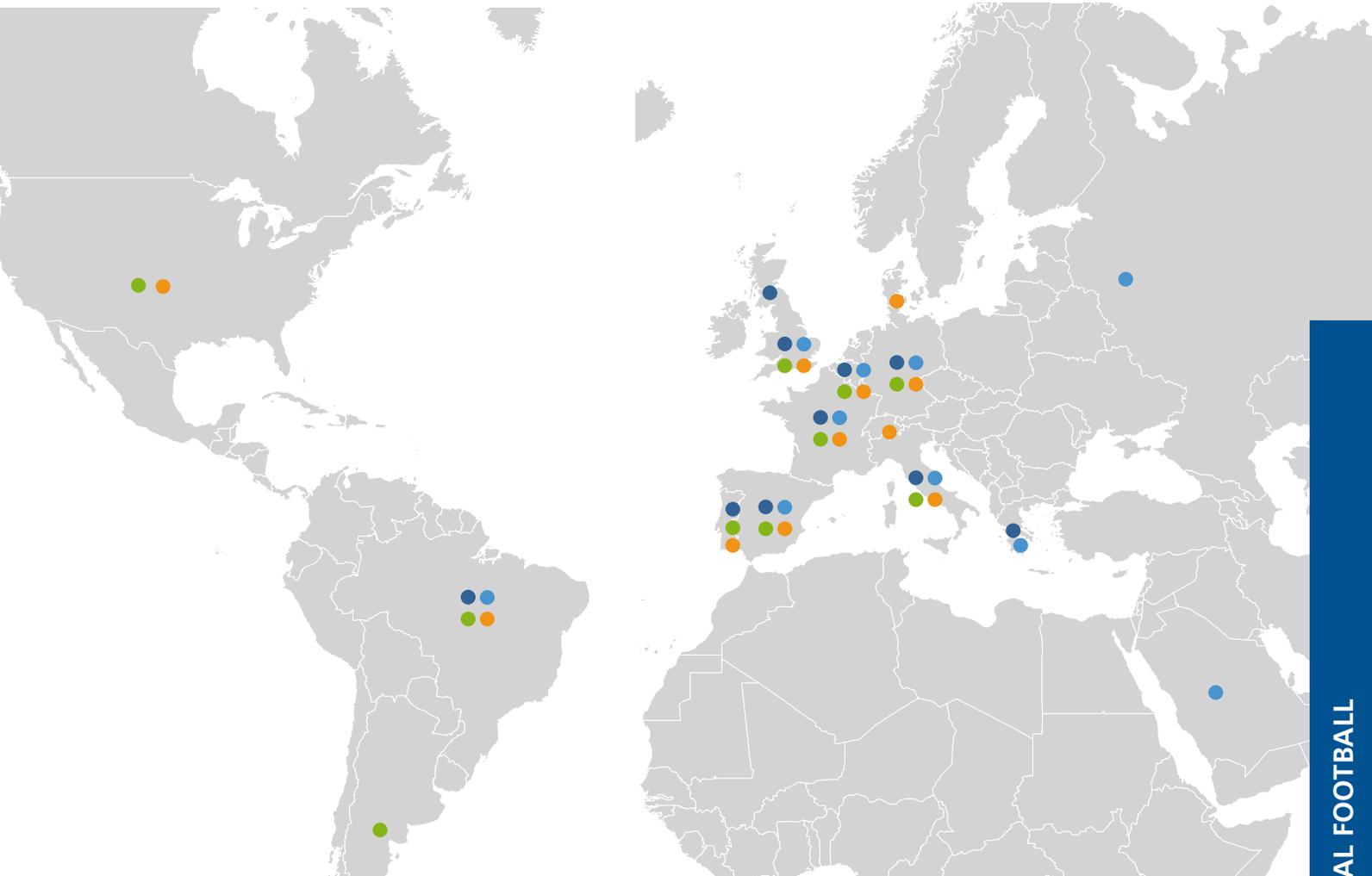
Figure 6: Transfers and transfer fees in USD by confederation (January 2022)



The lists of the top ten member associations in terms of incoming and outgoing transfers, as well as spending on and receipts from transfer fees, are dominated by Europe. Indeed, England led the way on two fronts, with total spending of USD 349.5 million and total receipts of USD 108.6 million. Nevertheless, Brazil topped the tables for incoming and outgoing transfers with 201 and 176 transfers respectively.

Figure 7: Top ten associations by incoming transfers, spending on transfer fees, outgoing transfers and receipts from transfer fees (January 2022)

- Top ten by incoming transfers
- Top ten by spending on transfer fees
- Top ten by outgoing transfers
- Top ten by receipts from transfer fees



Top ten by incoming transfers

Brazil	201
Portugal	194
Spain	175
England	153
Germany	112
France	108
Greece	108
Italy	96
Scotland	91
Belgium	88

Top ten by spending on transfer fees

England	349.5m
Italy	113.6m
Spain	111.1m
France	75.2m
Russia	72.1m
Germany	70.6m
Belgium	32.7m
Greece	23.7m
Saudi Arabia	23.5m
Brazil	23.1m

Top ten by outgoing transfers

Brazil	176
England	168
Argentina	123
USA	116
Spain	113
France	111
Portugal	96
Italy	91
Belgium	72
Germany	69

Top ten by receipts from transfer fees

England	108.6m
France	99.2m
Portugal	94.3m
USA	73.0m
Italy	71.5m
Brazil	69.5m
Germany	60.6m
Switzerland	46.7m
Belgium	35.9m
Denmark	32.1m



WOMEN'S PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL

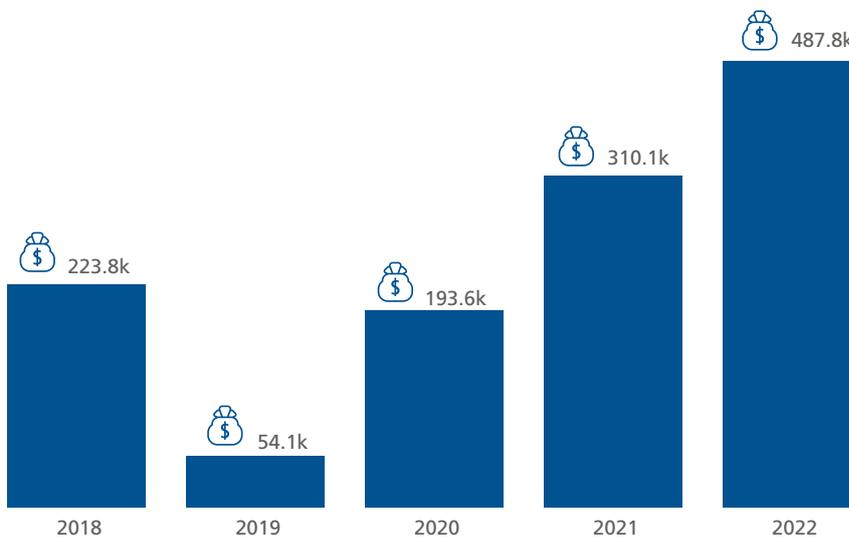
Transfers and transfer fees

In women's professional football, a total of 257 international player transfers were completed in January 2022. This represents an increase of 42.8% compared to the January 2021 registration period. Due to the small number of transfers that include a transfer fee in the women's game, total spending can be heavily affected by even a single transaction. This year, the total outlay in January amounted to USD 487,800, a new record.

Figure 8: International transfers during the January registration period



Figure 9: Transfer fees in USD during the January registration period



257

international transfers in January 2022, an increase of 42.8%



USD

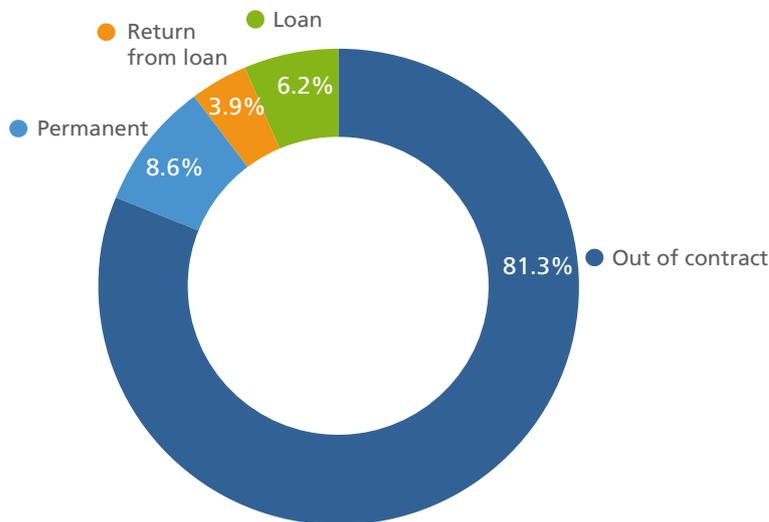
487.8k
spent on transfer fees, 57.3% more than in 2021



Transfer types

The vast majority of transfers in the January 2022 registration period (81.3%) involved out-of-contract players, although this represents 7.0 percentage points fewer than in 2021. Permanent club-to-club transfers constituted the second-commonest type (8.6% of all transfers).

Figure 10: Transfers by type (January 2022)



81.3%
of all transfers
were of
out-of-contract
players



6.2%
of all transfers
were loans



Transfers and fees by player age

Players between 18 and 23 years old were the best-represented age group in women's international transfers this January, being involved in 46.7% of the transfers, followed by those aged between 24 and 29 (41.2%). Players aged between 18 and 23 also dominated in regard to transfer spending, with 86.2% of the total outlay coming in this age category.

Figure 11: Transfers by player age (January 2022)

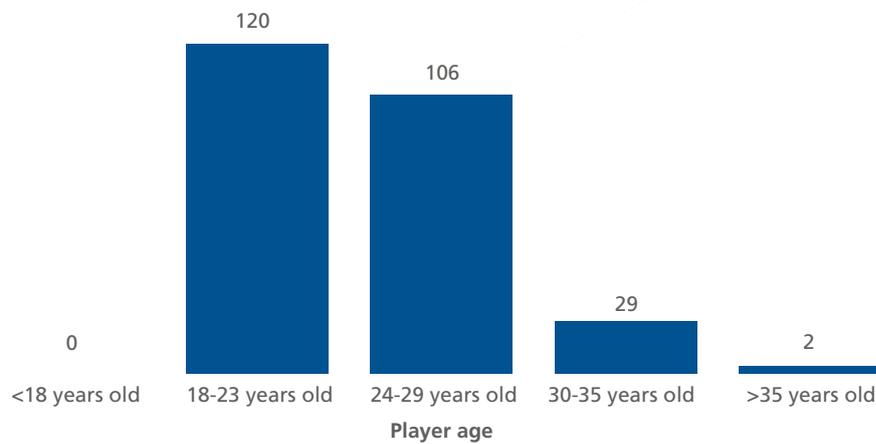
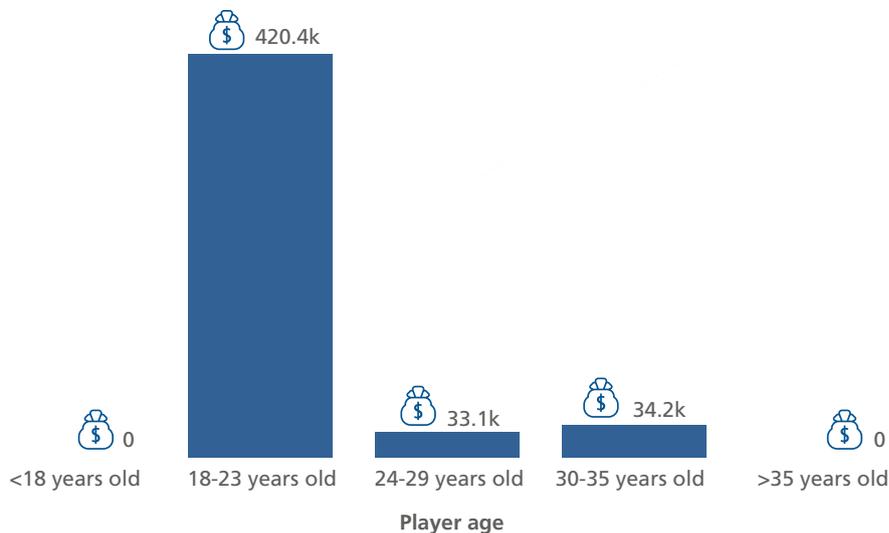


Figure 12: Spending on transfer fees in USD by player age (January 2022)

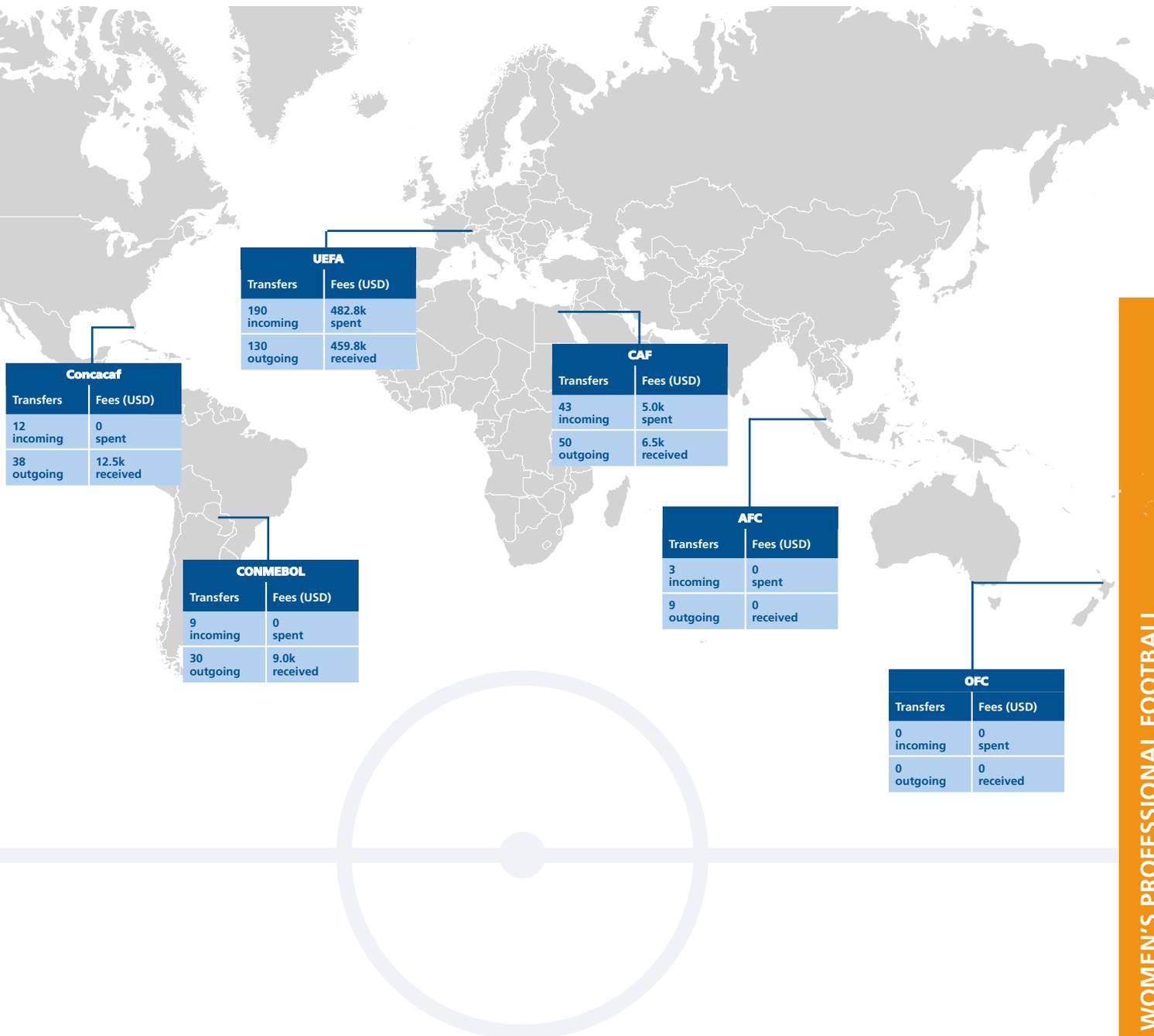


players aged
18-23 accounted
for **46.7%**
of the transfers
and **86.2%**
of the spending on
transfer fees

Transfers by confederation

The majority of international transfers of female professional players in January 2022 involved a European club (190 incoming and 130 outgoing transfers). The second-busiest region in terms of transfer activity was Africa, with CAF clubs completing 43 incoming and 50 outgoing transfers.

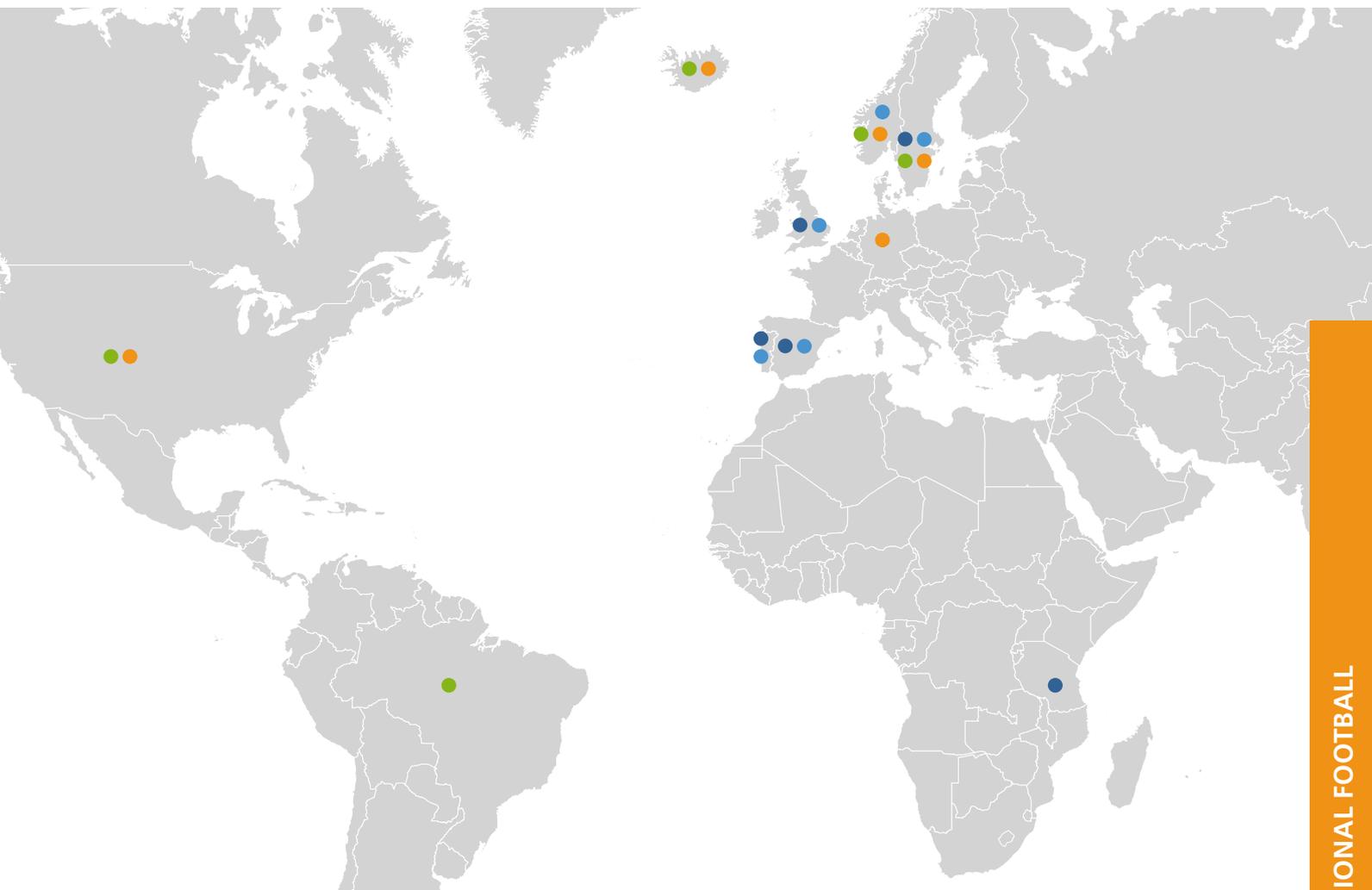
Figure 13: Transfers and transfer fees in USD by confederation (January 2022)



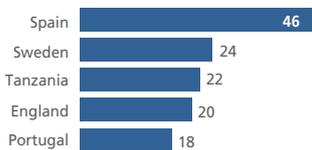
Like in the men’s game, Europe dominates the lists of the top member associations in January 2022 in terms of incoming and outgoing international transfers of female professional players, as well as spending on and receipts from transfer fees. Spain registered the highest number of incoming transfers (46), while clubs from the USA released the most players (27). In terms of total spending on incoming transfers, England led the way with USD 254,200, followed by Spain with USD 105,800.

Figure 14: Top five associations by incoming transfers, spending on transfer fees, outgoing transfers and receipts from transfer fees (January 2022)

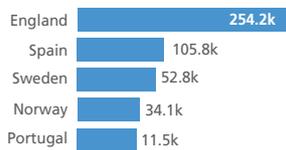
- Top five by incoming transfers
- Top five by spending on transfer fees
- Top five by outgoing transfers
- Top five by receipts from transfer fees



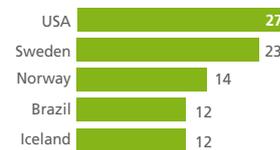
Top five by incoming transfers



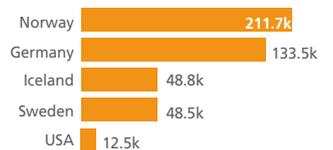
Top five by spending on transfer fees



Top five by outgoing transfers



Top five by receipts from transfer fees



METHODOLOGY

All transfer data provided in this report relates exclusively to international transfers of professional football players within the scope of 11-a-side football.

Transfer data has been analysed for all transfers completed between 1 and 31 January 2022. The data was extracted from TMS on 4 February 2022. When making comparisons with previous years, we used the interval from 1 January to the last day of the official registration period of most European associations, i.e. 1 February for 2021 and 31 January for 2018, 2019 and 2020.

All references to transfer fees in this report are to the fixed, conditional and release (buyout) fees as declared in TMS. All fees are treated as upfront payments for calculation purposes, notwithstanding any instalment plans that may be agreed by clubs. All amounts are automatically converted into USD based on the conversion rate on the day when the transfer instruction is entered in TMS.

The numbers that feature in this report have been rounded.

Ties in graphs showing the top ten or top five associations have been broken at random.

We distinguish between four types of international transfers:

- Out of contract: when players who are no longer contractually bound to any former club sign an employment contract with a new club in a different association and no transfer agreement between clubs has been signed.
- Loan: when players are temporarily engaged by a new club: a) on the basis of a loan agreement between the club with which they have an employment contract and a club of another association, during the term of their employment contract with their parent club; or b) when the loan is extended by the new club with the agreement of the parent club.
- Return from loan: when players return to their parent club after a loan spell at another club.
- Permanent: when players are permanently engaged by a new club and a transfer agreement is signed between the new club and the former club, or when a club permanently engages players it has had on loan, with the agreement of the former club.



DISCLAIMER

The information in this report is based on individual transaction data provided directly by football clubs in TMS. FIFA assumes no responsibility for the accuracy, completeness and reliability of the information provided by the clubs. With regard to any technical references included in this report, please be advised that in the event of any contradiction between this report and the actual text of the relevant regulations, the latter shall always prevail. Equally, this report may not alter existing jurisprudence of the competent decision-making bodies and is without prejudice to any decision that the said bodies might be called upon to pass in the future.

Due to the nature of the TMS database, the presence of pending transfers, the potential cancellation of transfers, and data corrections, numbers may differ from one report to another. In the event of any contradiction between this report and other publications by FIFA, the most recent shall always prevail.

Any views expressed in this report do not necessarily reflect those of FIFA.

Source of data and preparation of report

The source of all data and information (unless explicitly stated otherwise) is:

FIFA

Legal Strategic Projects Subdivision

Legal & Compliance Division

Zurich, Switzerland

Data protection

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