

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)

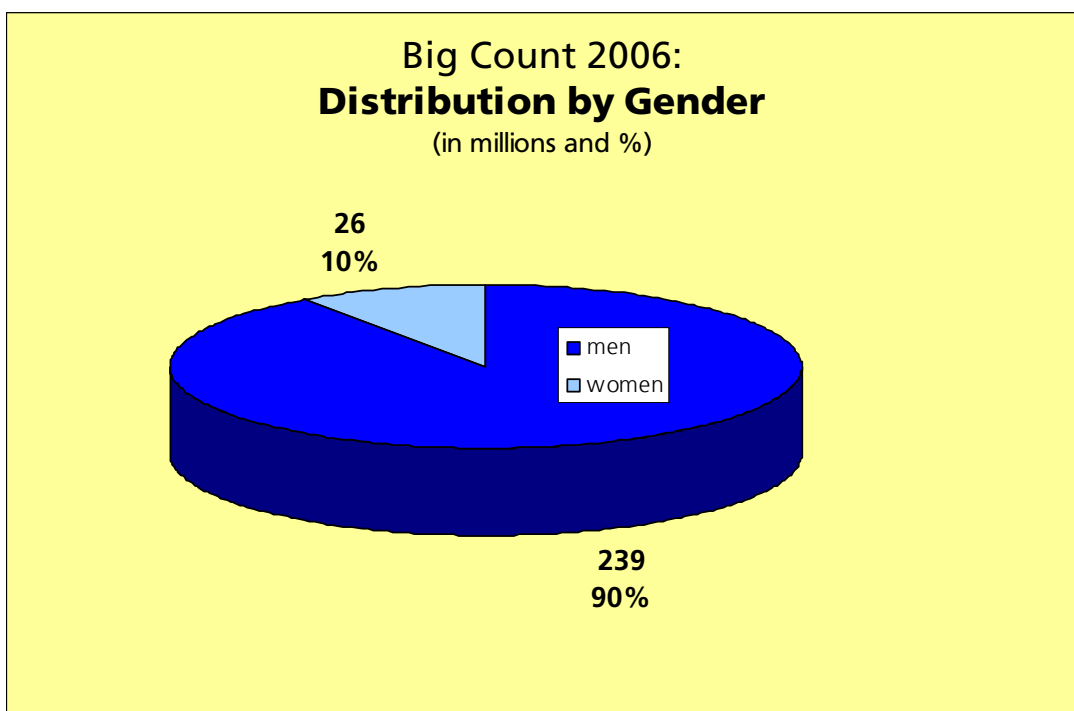
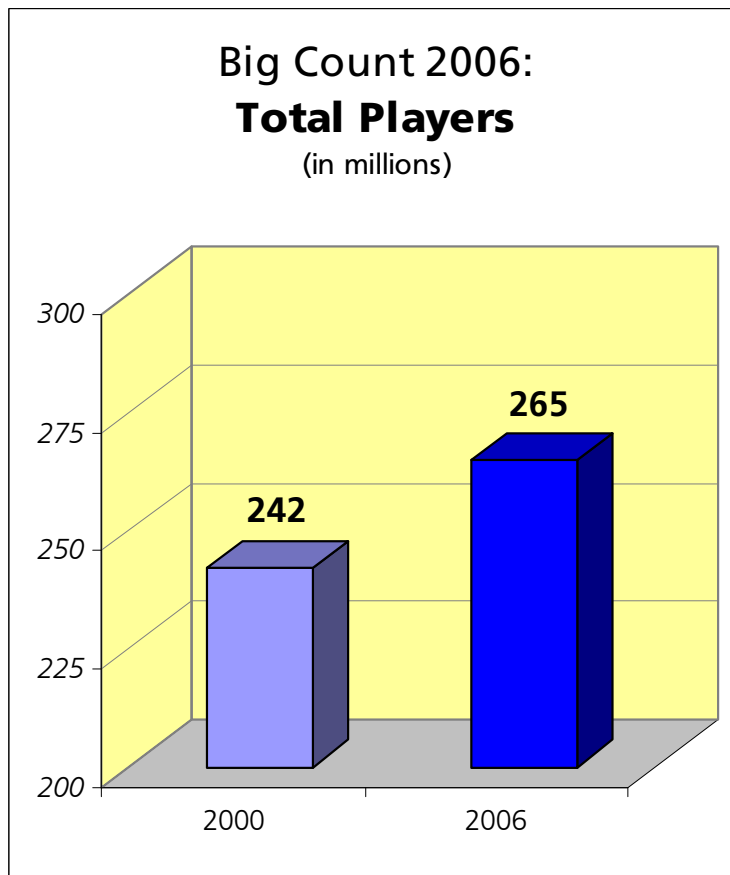
| | Big Count 2006 | Big Count 2000 | +/- |
|---|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| Total Players | 265 | 242 | +9% |
| Male players | 238.6 | 220.5 | +8 |
| Female players | 26.0 | 21.9 | +19 |
| | | | |
| Total Players, registered | 38 | 31 | +24% |
| Male players, registered | 34.2 | 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 | |

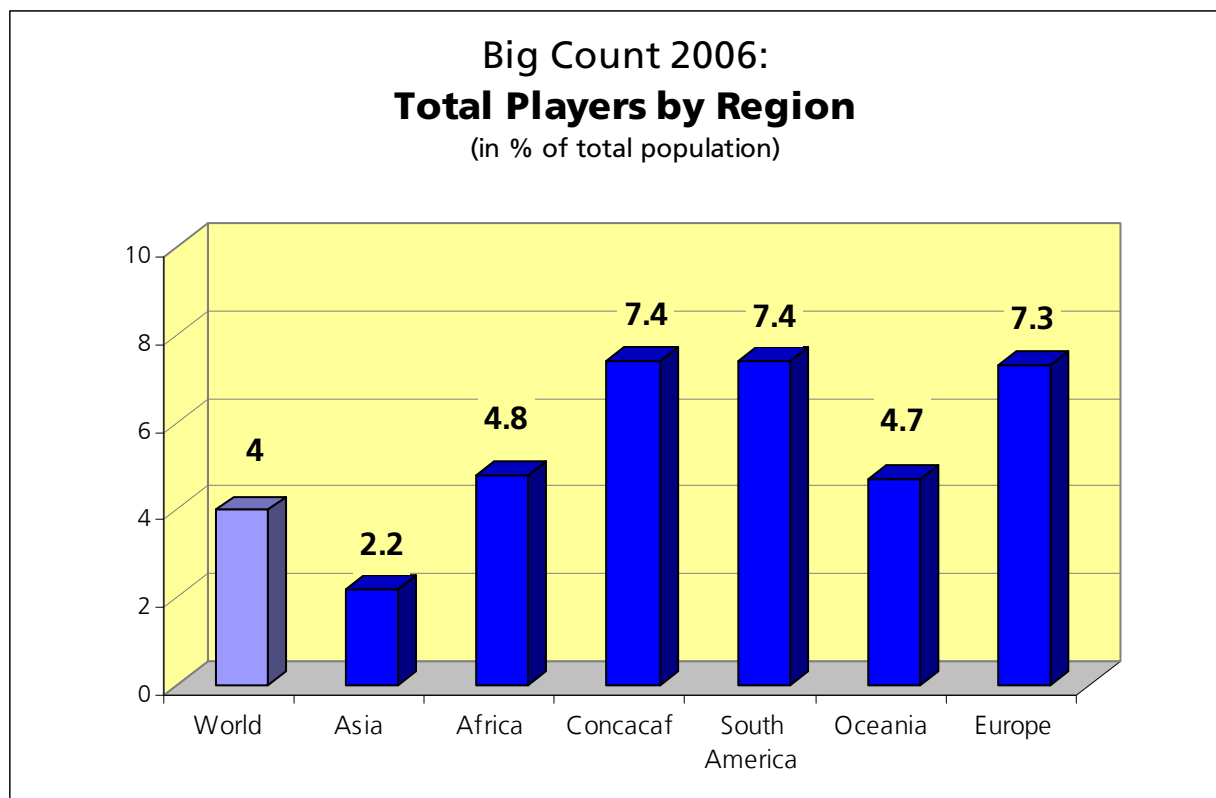
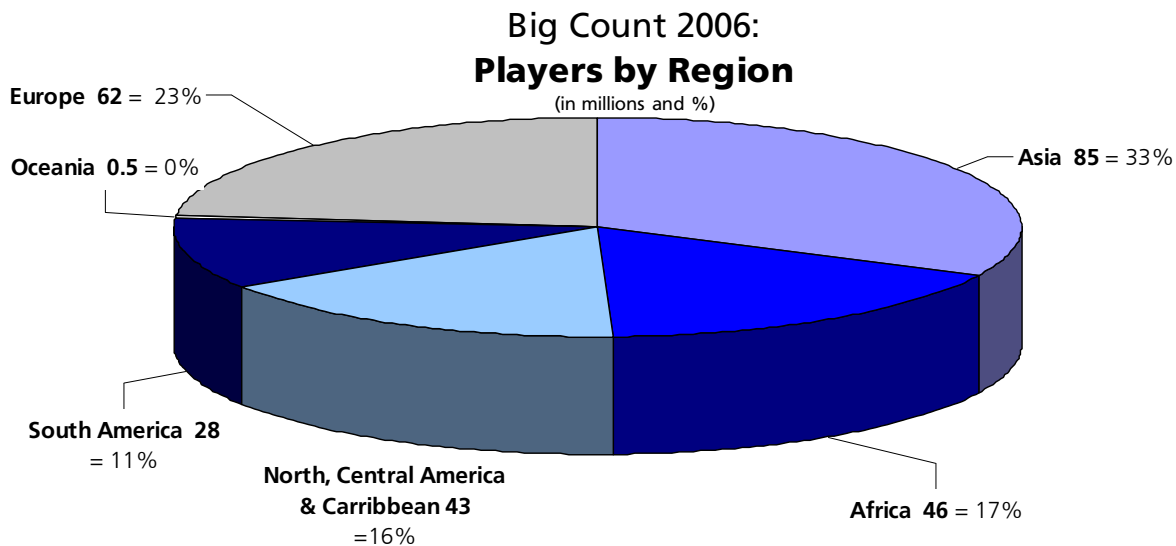
Big Count 2006: Statistical Summary Report by Gender/Category/Region

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

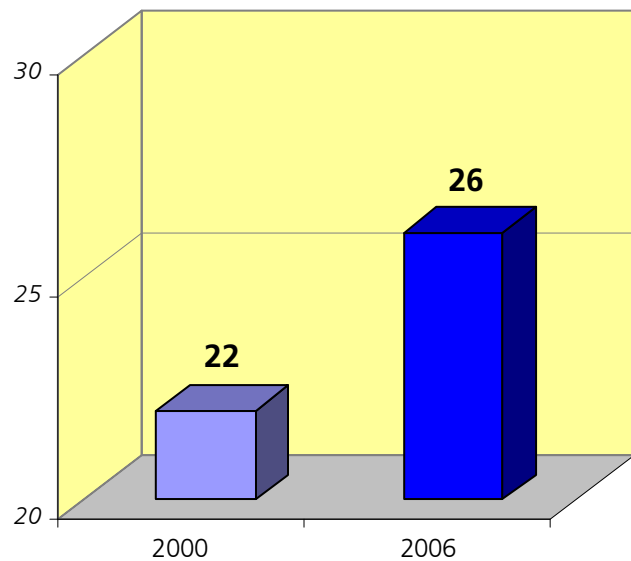
Values proved statistically

| | 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 |

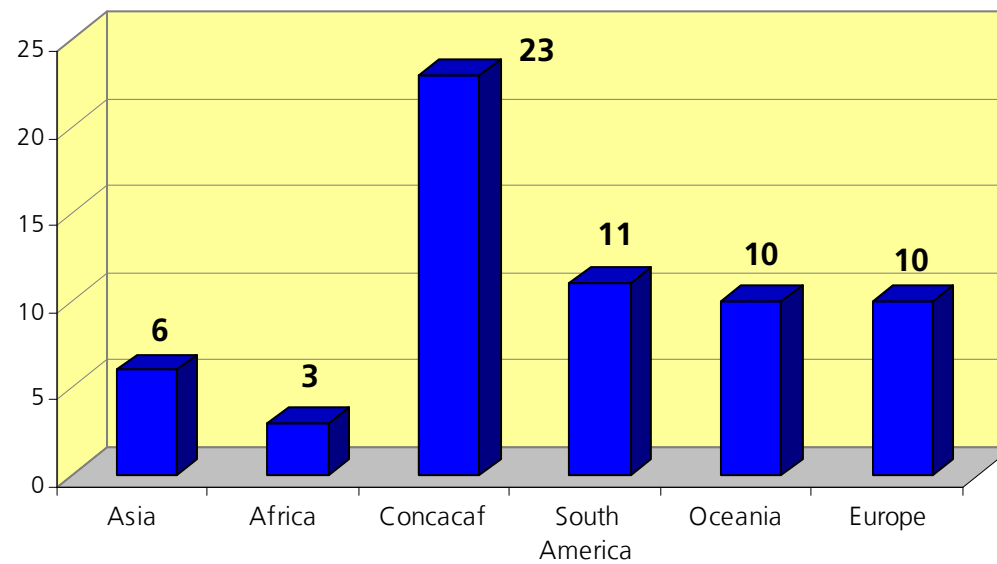




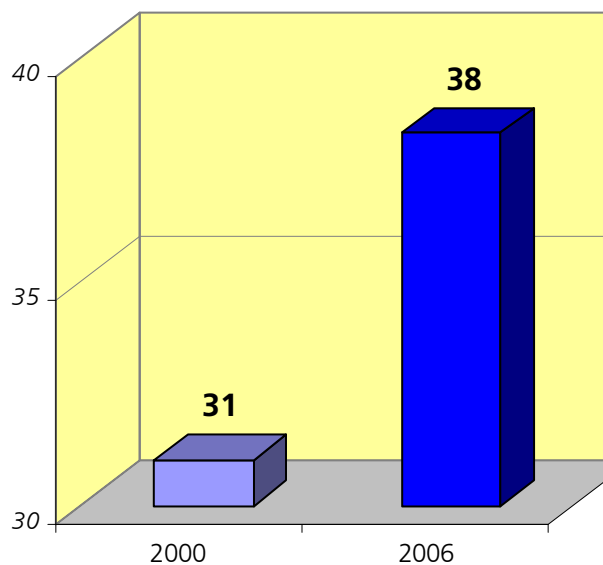
**Big Count 2006:
Female Players**
(in millions)



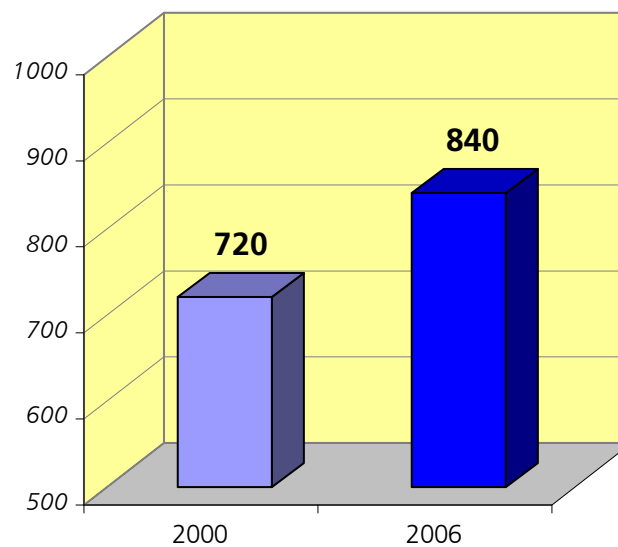
**Big Count 2006:
Female Players**
(in % of total)



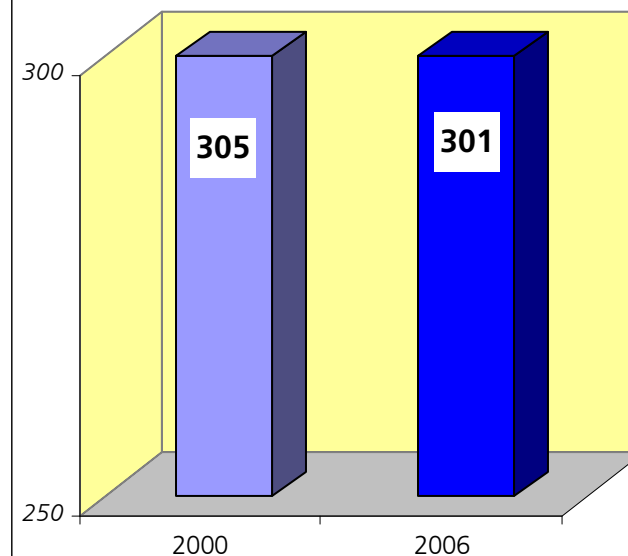
**Big Count 2006:
Registered Players**
(in millions)



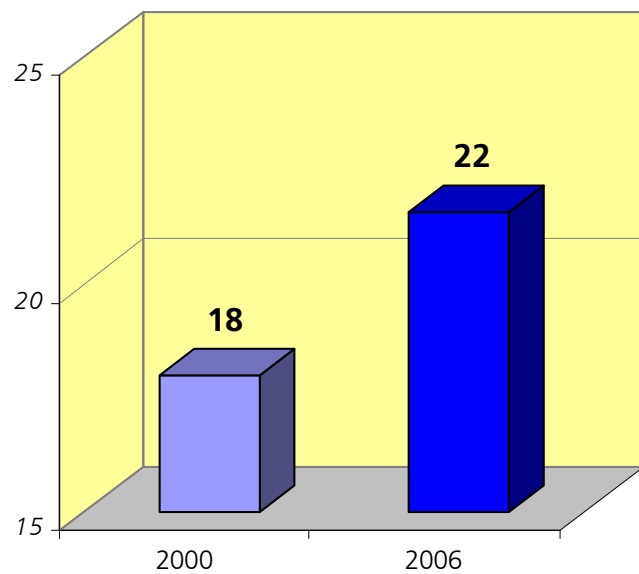
**Big Count 2006:
Referees**
(in 1000s)



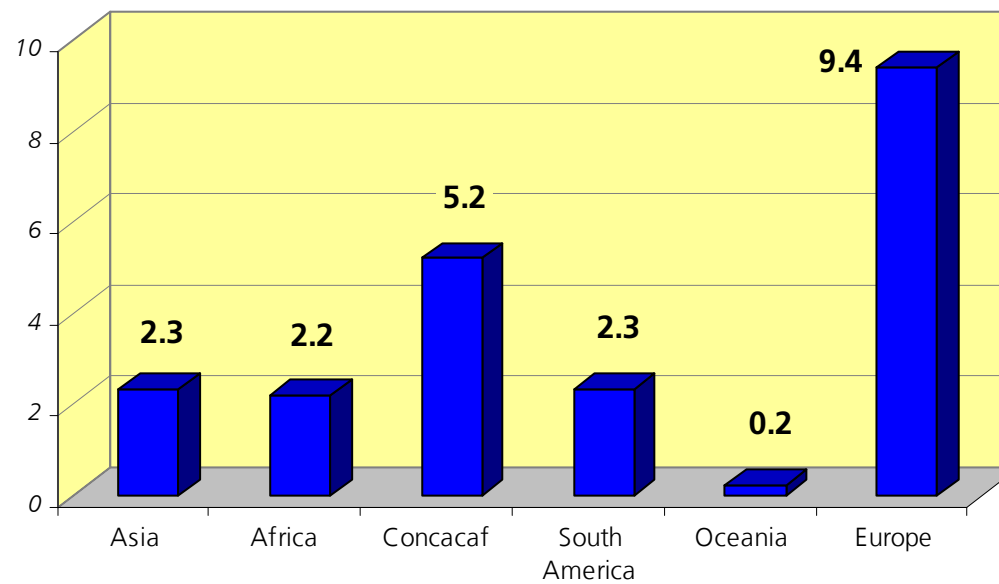
**Big Count 2006:
Clubs**
(in 1000s)



**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 |