



Why England Will Win The World Cup

Executive Summary

England is going to win this world cup because they have the most balanced squad left in the competition. They do not need superstar players to be world champions - instead their key strength is for every player you take out of their starting team, the replacement is just as strong. None of their players are coming into the world cup undercooked, and the majority of their squad is in their peak years. Peak age players can go longer, and England has been able to save their depth for later in the tournament.

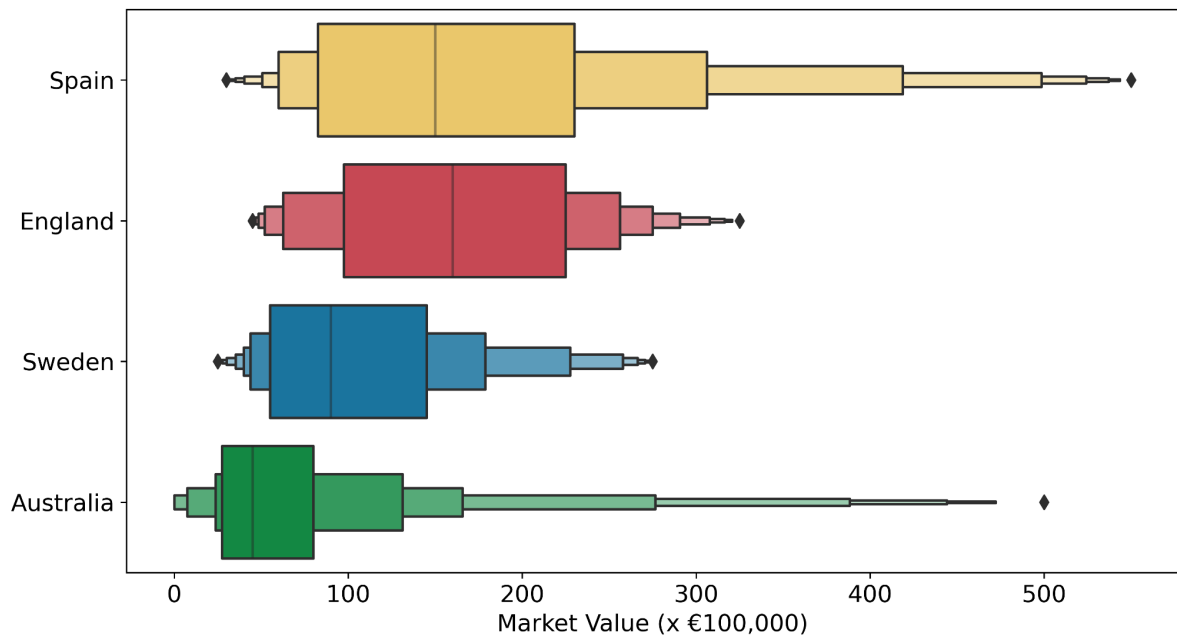
England has gotten to the Semi Finals of the world cup without playing their best football. Their game has mitigated risk - limiting opportunities for opposition sides to difficult chances and leading to the lowest goals conceded in the tournament. They have dominated possession, but looked to create high quality opportunities. Coming into the tournament ranked 4th, they have underperformed thus far against weaker opponents, but their stats make clear there is an opportunity for additional risk taking when the lionesses face the toughest opponents of the tournament. Many teams have peaked too early in this world cup - Japan and the Netherlands having impressive group stages but going out in the quarter finals - and knowing what it takes to win and peaking at the right time can be precisely what is required to be champion.

Beth England is the most prolific forward going into the tournament from any Semi Finalist - she has mostly sat on the bench thus far in the world cup, but will be ready to pounce once England's game plan adapts. The Lionesses are European Champions and convincingly beat two of their fellow semi finalists en route to that title. England and Sarina Wiegman (twice) are the only side to have masterminded a major tournament victory, and evidence suggests they have enough cards left unplayed to architect their way to football's greatest prize.



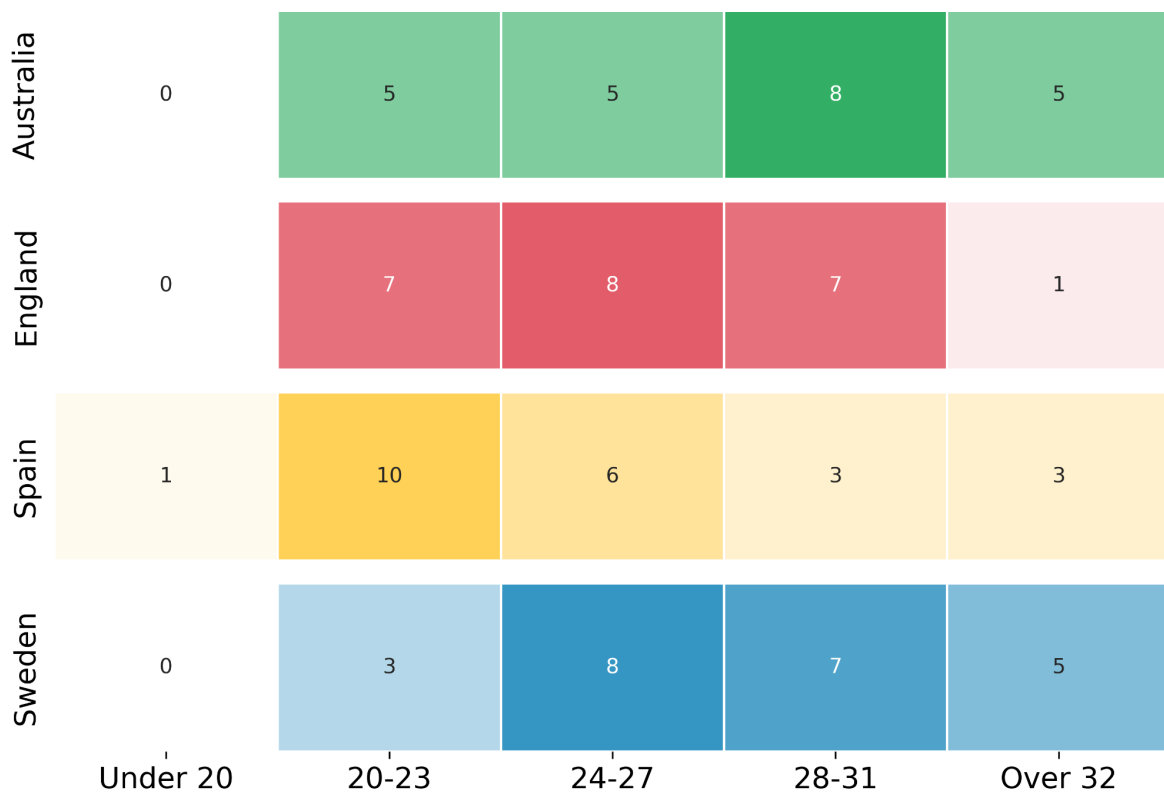
Squad Balance

Market Value of Tournament Squads



- ▶ England has the highest floor in terms of quality of player in the entire tournament. There are no weak players within their 23.

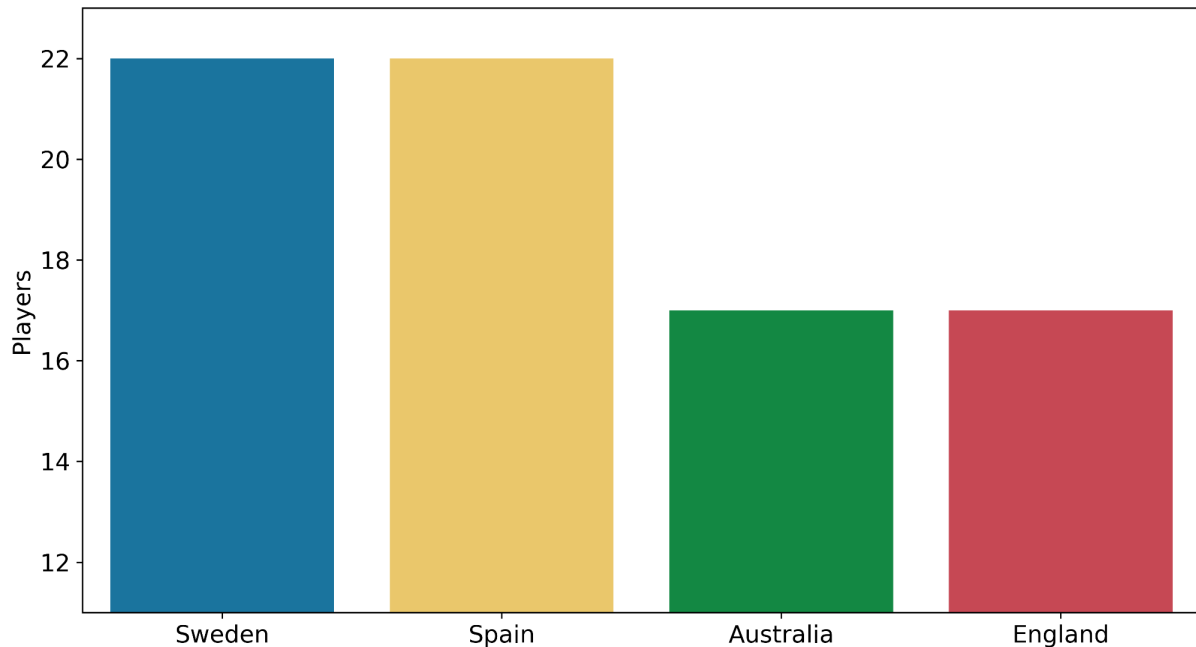
Squad Age Categories





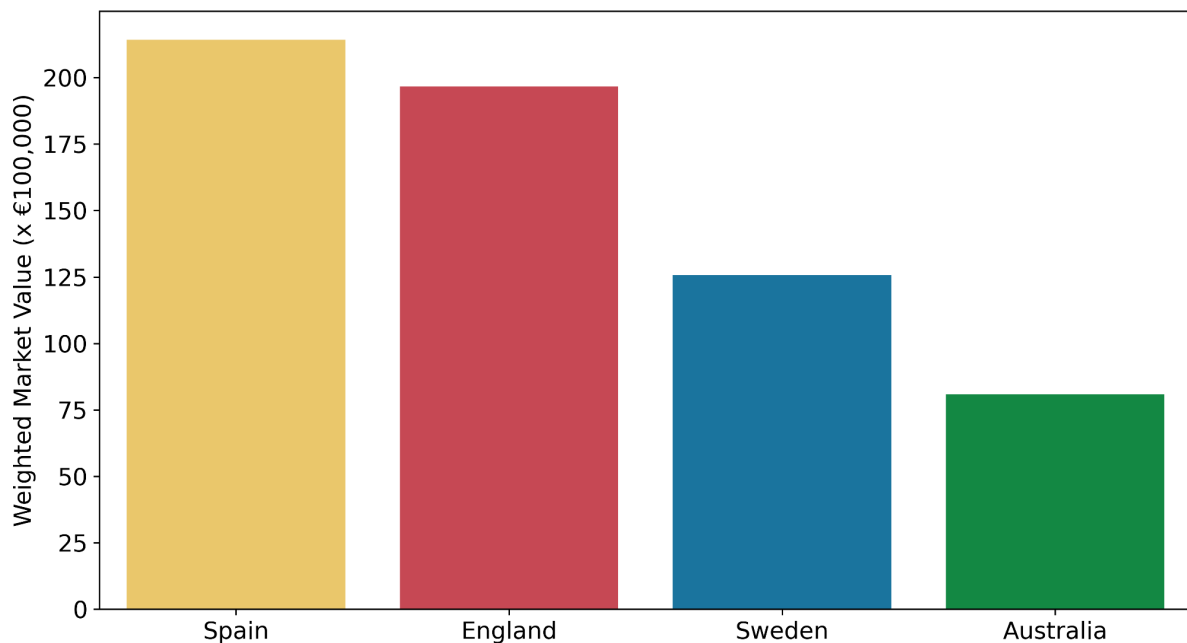
- ▶ England has the most peak age (24-31) players of any squad in the semi finalists. They have no under 20s, and only 1 player over 32. These peak age players can play more minutes at a higher level.

2023 World Cup Players Used



- ▶ As a result, can play fewer players than others

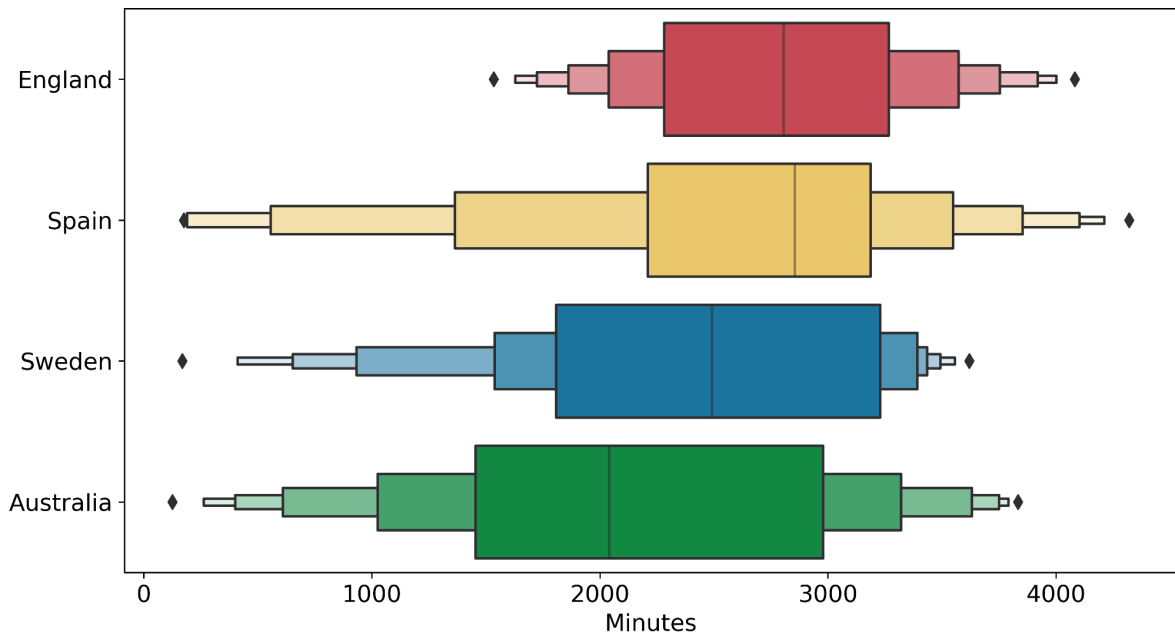
Market Value x Playing Minutes



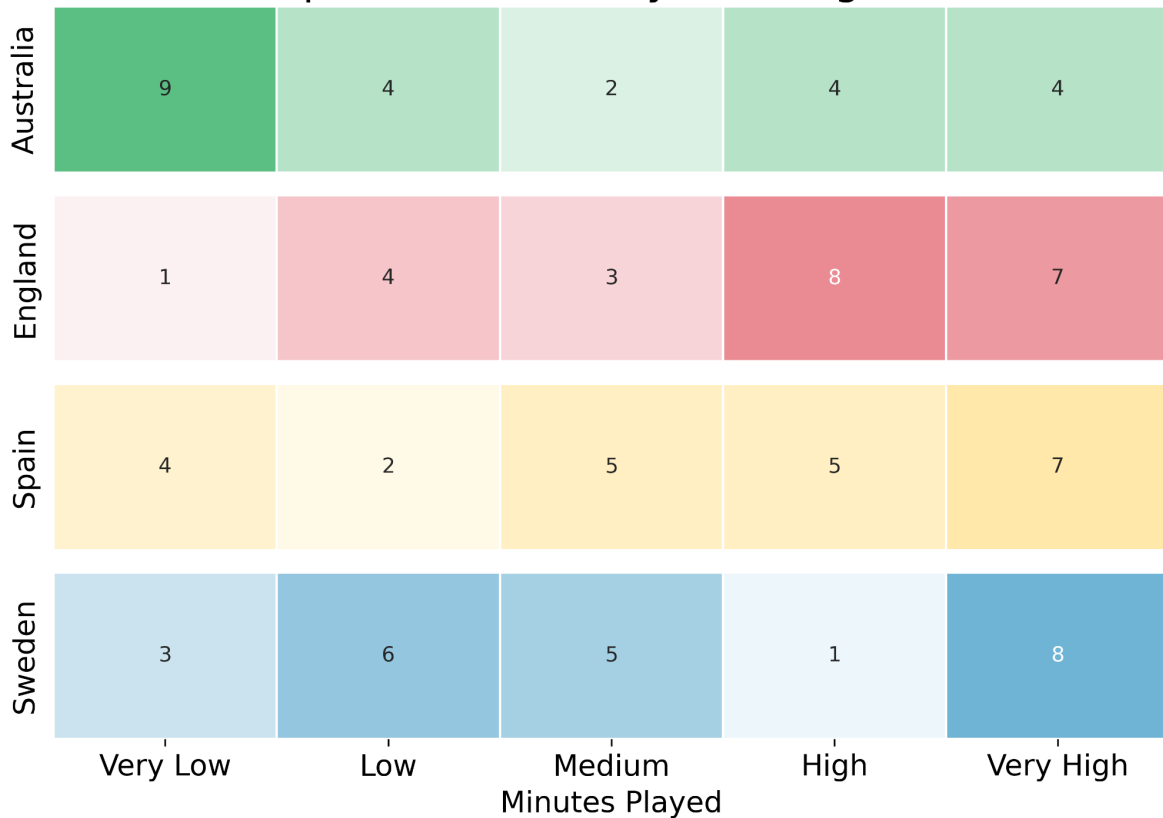
- ▶ This is key, because it keeps their most valuable players on the pitch, and keeps the quality they have on the pitch as high as any other side of the semi finalists.



Squad Minutes Played



Squad Minutes Played Categories



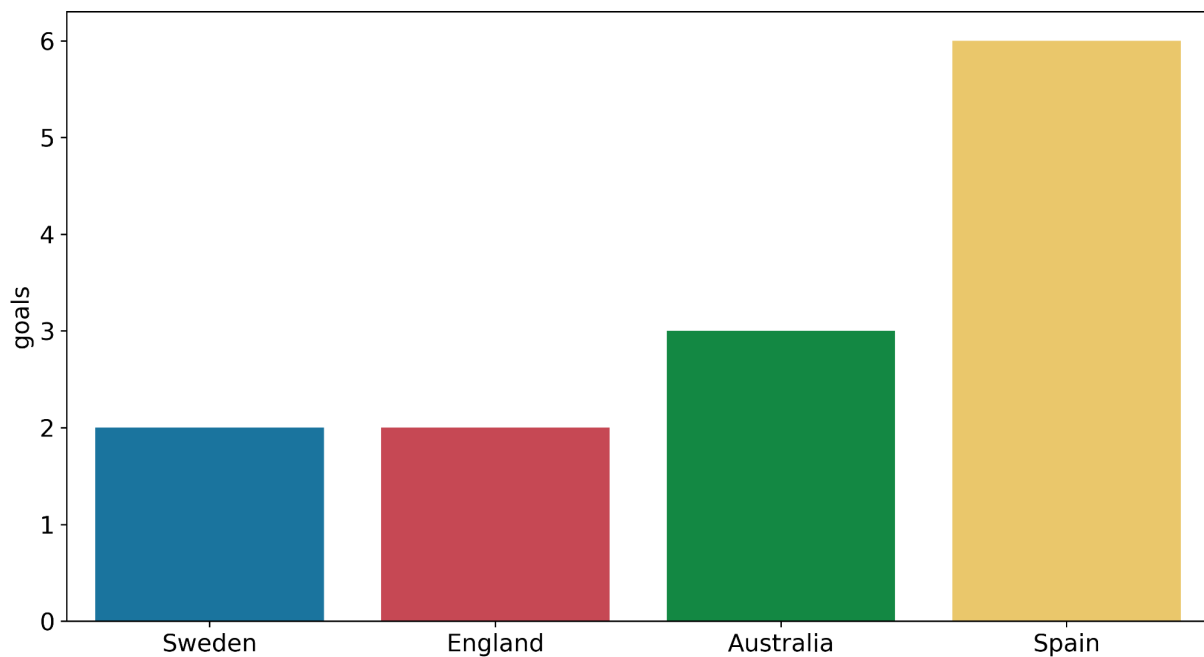
- ▶ England has a relatively low spread of player minutes. Their team has been loaded relatively equally coming into the world cup



- ▶ England has the fewest players with a “very low” number of minutes played. Low minutes coming into the world cup tend to be undercooked players who are not ready for competition at this level. If England has to go into their squad over the final two games their players will be better prepared for that than any competitor.

Defensive Stability

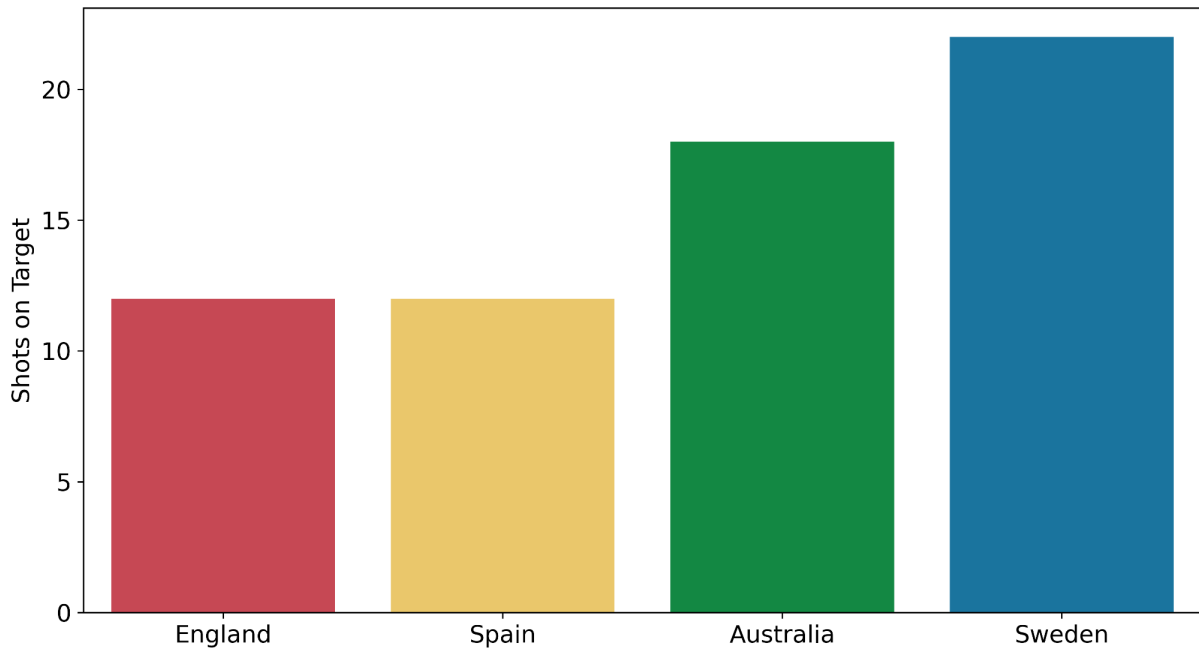
2023 World Cup Goals Conceded



- ▶ England has only conceded 2 goals so far in the world cup, the fewest of any team

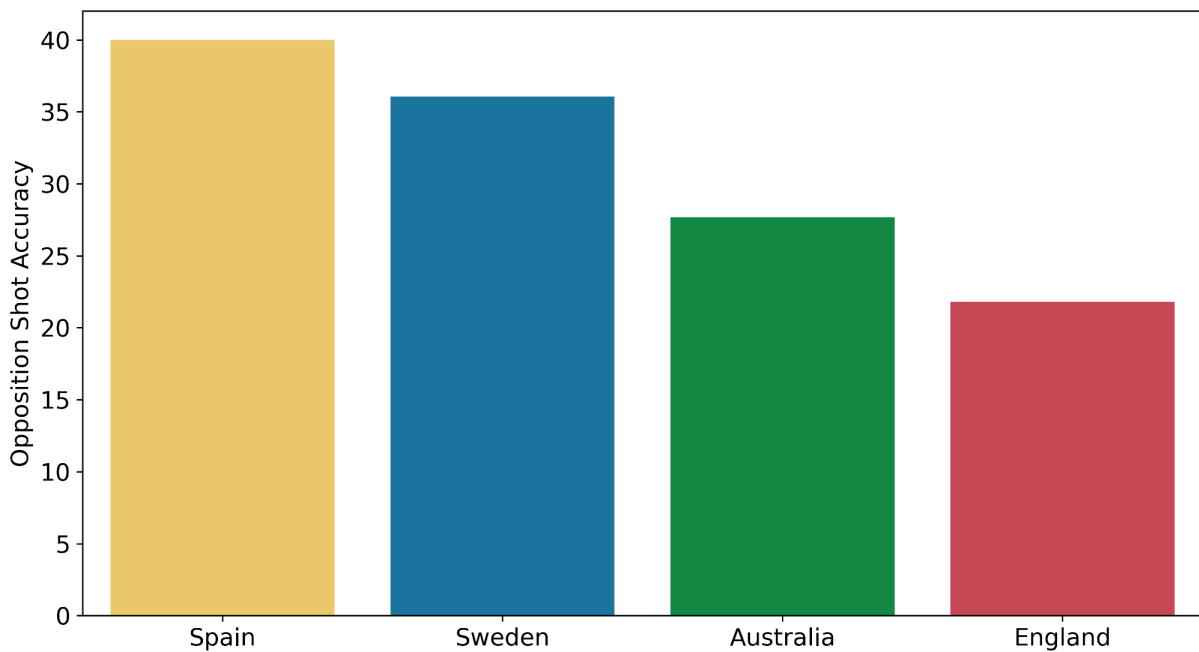


2023 World Cup Shot on Target (Against)



- ▶ England has also allowed the fewest shots on target of the semi finalists

2023 World Cup Shot Accuracy (Against)

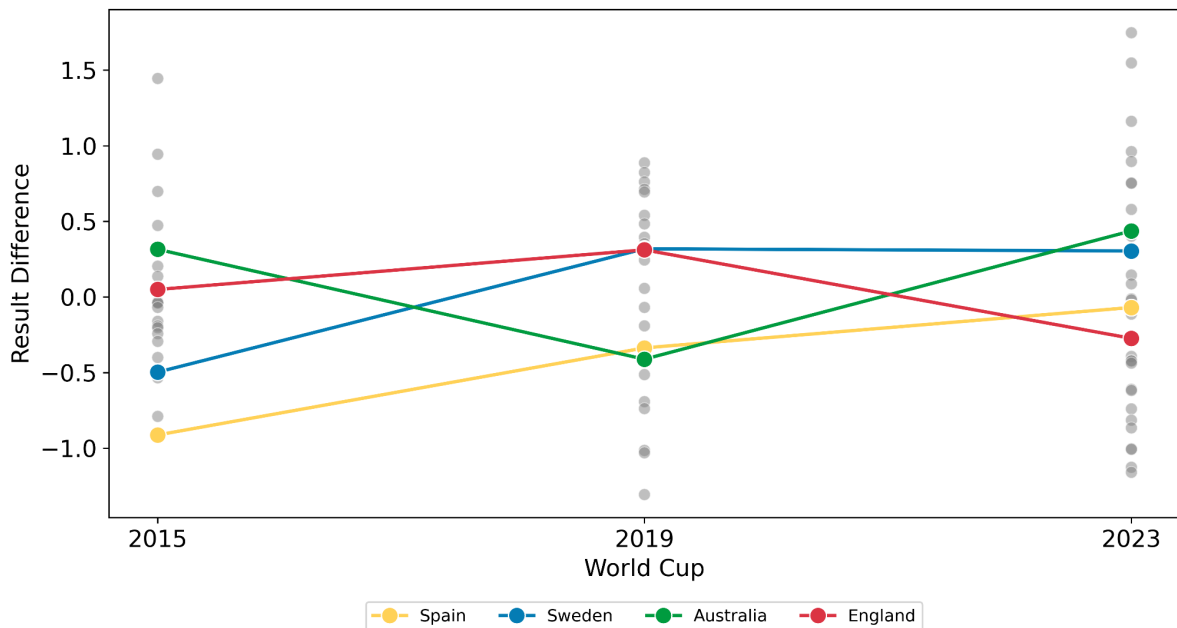


- ▶ England's defensive pressure has limited teams to half chances, leading to a low shot accuracy from their opponents.



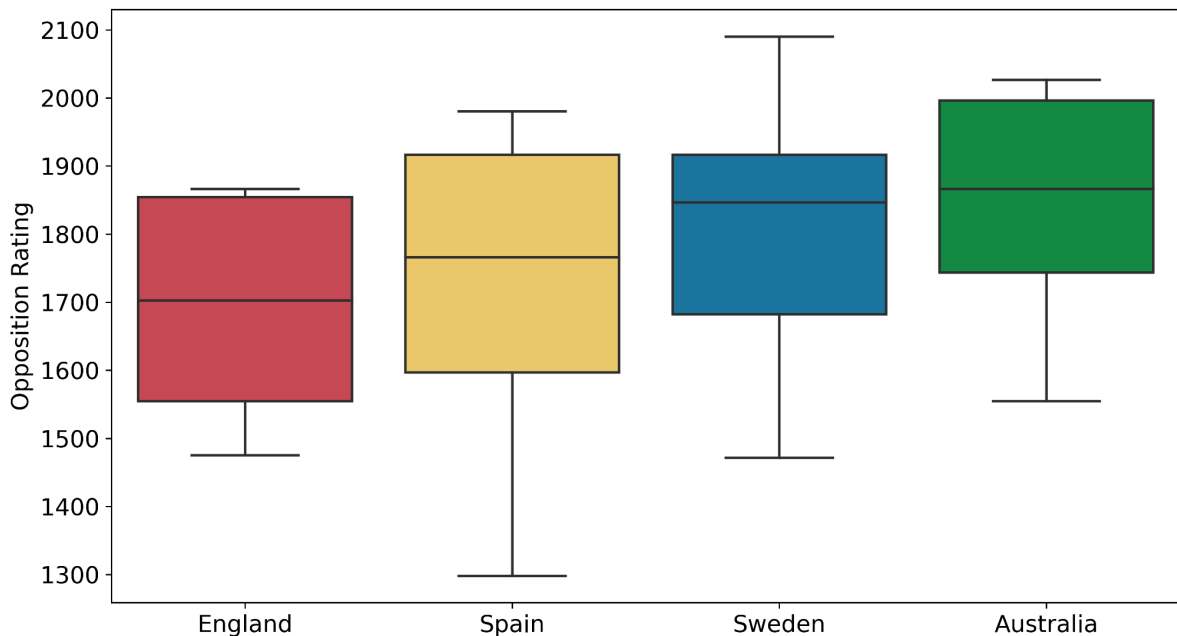
Winning Ugly and Mitigating Risk

2023 World Cup Over/Underperformance



- ▶ England is currently underperforming their expectations. Their performance is more similar to France or the USA - teams that are already out of the tournament, than Sweden or Australia.

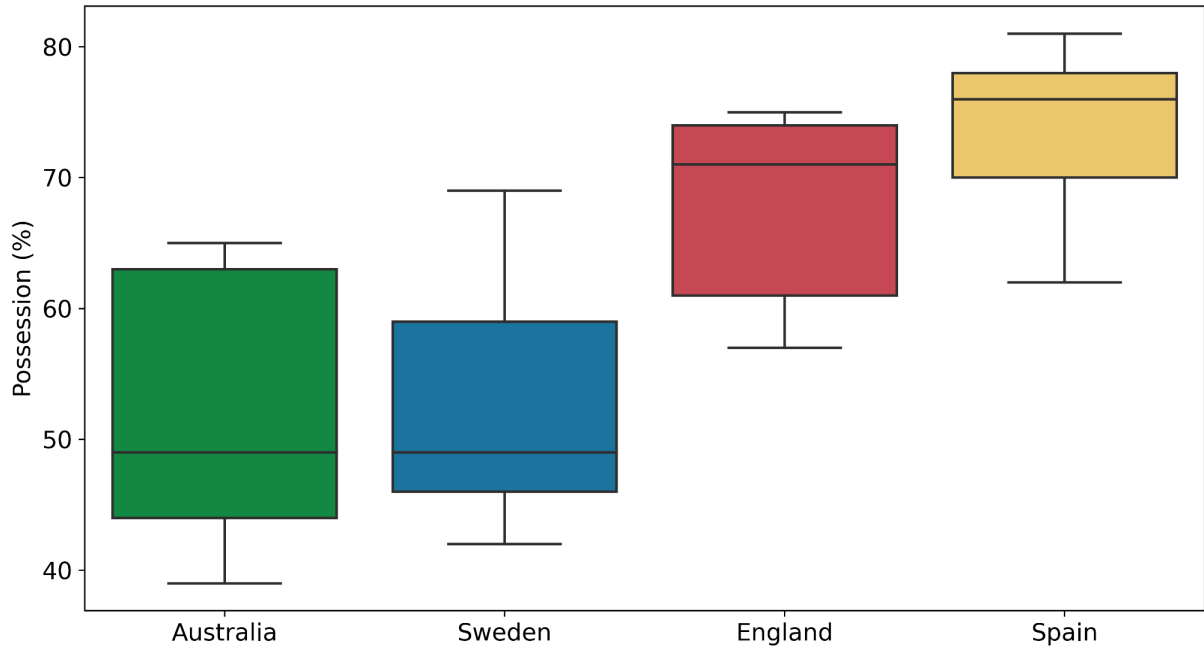
World Cup 2023 Opposition FIFA Rating



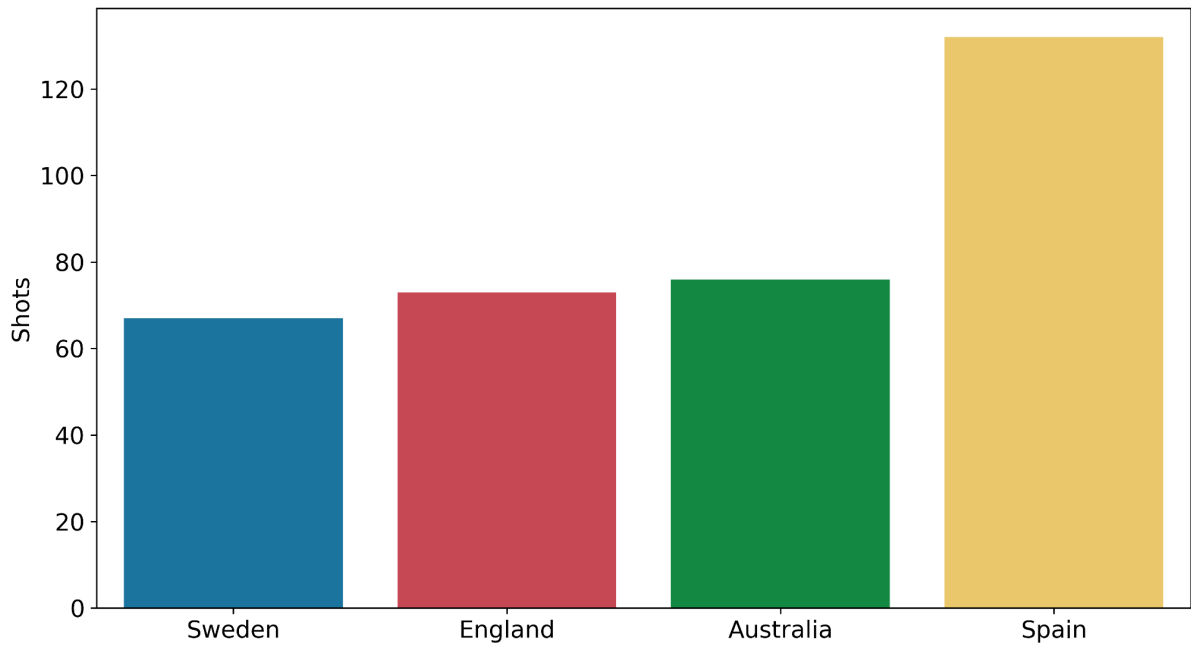
- ▶ England has also played the lowest level of opposition in the tournament.



2023 World Cup Possession

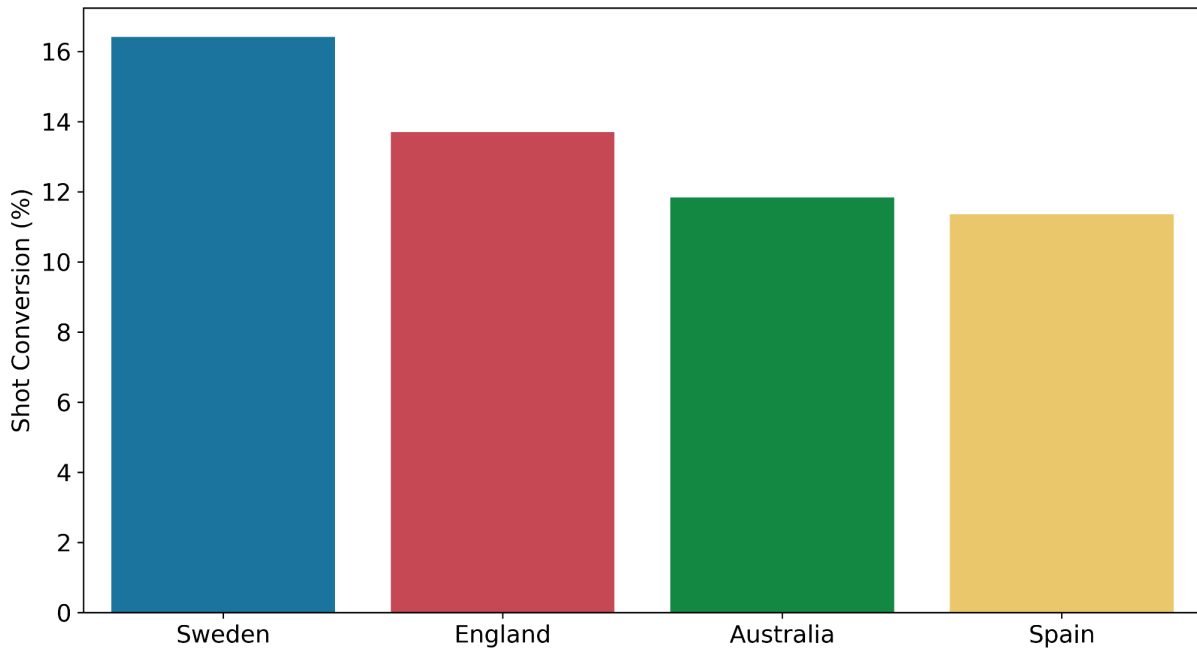


2023 World Cup Shots

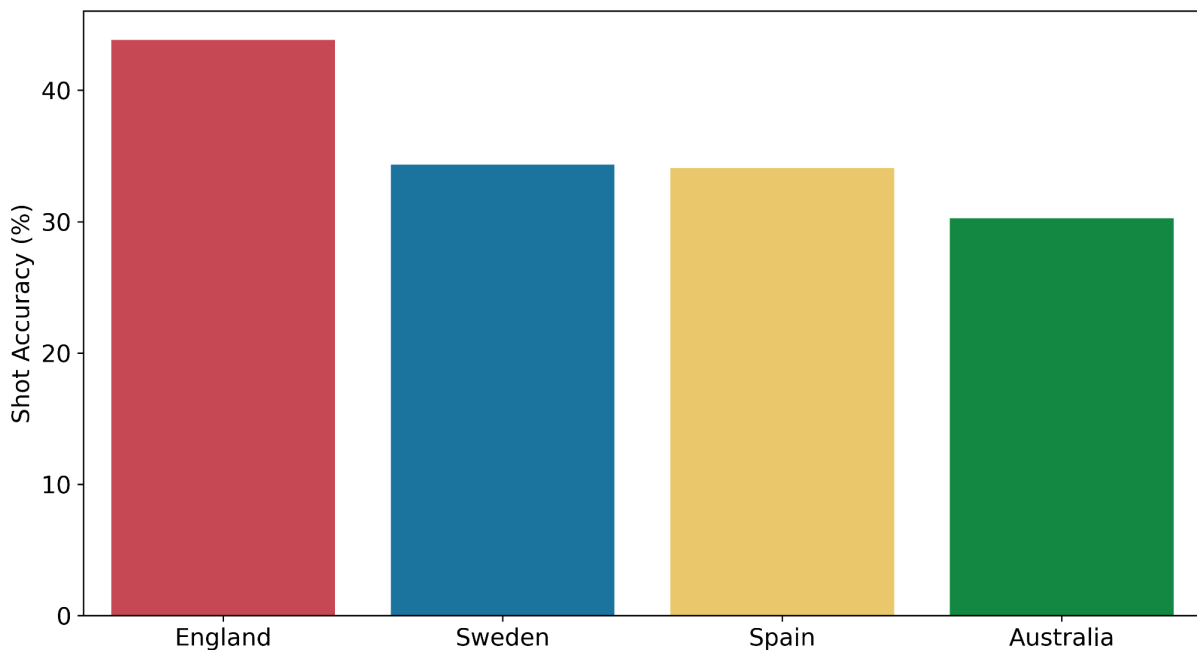




2023 World Cup Shot Conversion



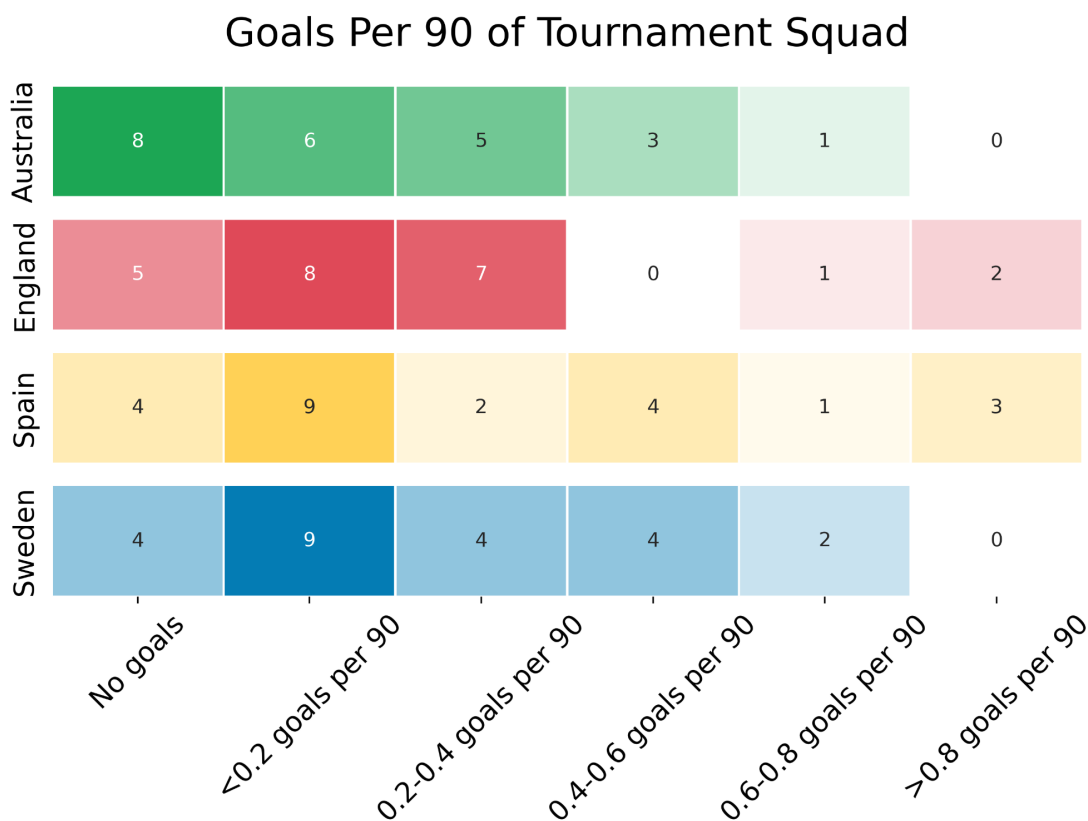
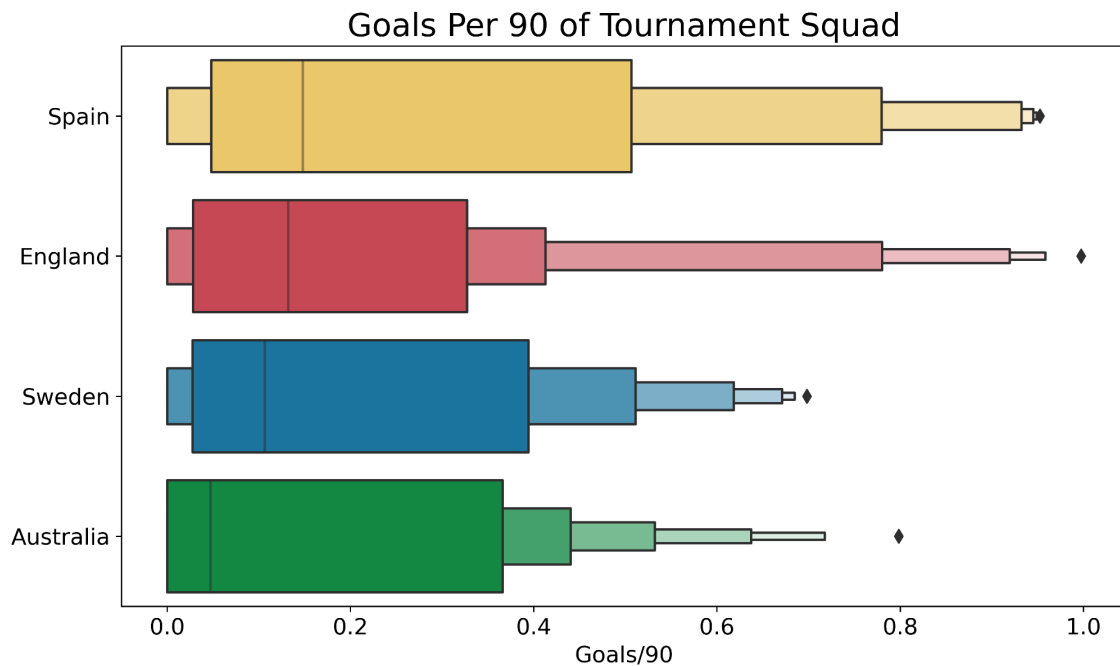
2023 World Cup Shot Accuracy



- ▶ England has demonstrated an ability to “do what it takes to win” to this stage of the tournament. They have dominated games in terms of possession, but played a controlled game with very few shots.
- ▶ Their conversion from these shots is very high, and their shot accuracy is far higher. England has mitigated risk through the world cup to get themselves into the best position to win.



The top goalscorer



- ▶ England has the player with the highest goals per 90 in the 12 months before the tournament, Beth England with 1 goal per 90 minutes.
- ▶ The team has two further elite forwards to call upon:
 - ▶ Rachel Daly - 0.88 goals per 90
 - ▶ Allesia Russo - 0.61 goals per 90