



# Why Spain Will Win The World Cup

## Executive Summary

Why is Spain going to win the World Cup? They will win because they have the highest quality of player in the tournament, and have been able to bring the strongest squad onto the pitch in each of their games. This squad has bossed the game in each of their matches, averaging over 70% possession over the course of the competition.

Spain also has an elite set of goal scorers and assisters - more than any of the other semi-finalists. These players have created and scored goals at an elite level coming into the tournament, and have also performed during the FIFA WWC. Spain has scored the most goals and created the highest number of chances of any team remaining in the competition. With 8 goalscorers and 6 players having given assists this tournament they are most well insulated against an off-day from any individual player.

Spain has utilised a great rotation policy in this tournament. Almost all their players have seen some form of action in the tournament, and the majority of their squad should be fresh going into the Semi Finals. They have achieved this by maximising their substitutes in the tournament, something they have been able to do because the quality of the substitutes is higher than anyone else in the tournament. Their players have also been the youngest cohort of the remaining teams. These fitter, fresher players are going to be able to show their greater quality in the most important moments of the Semi's and the final.

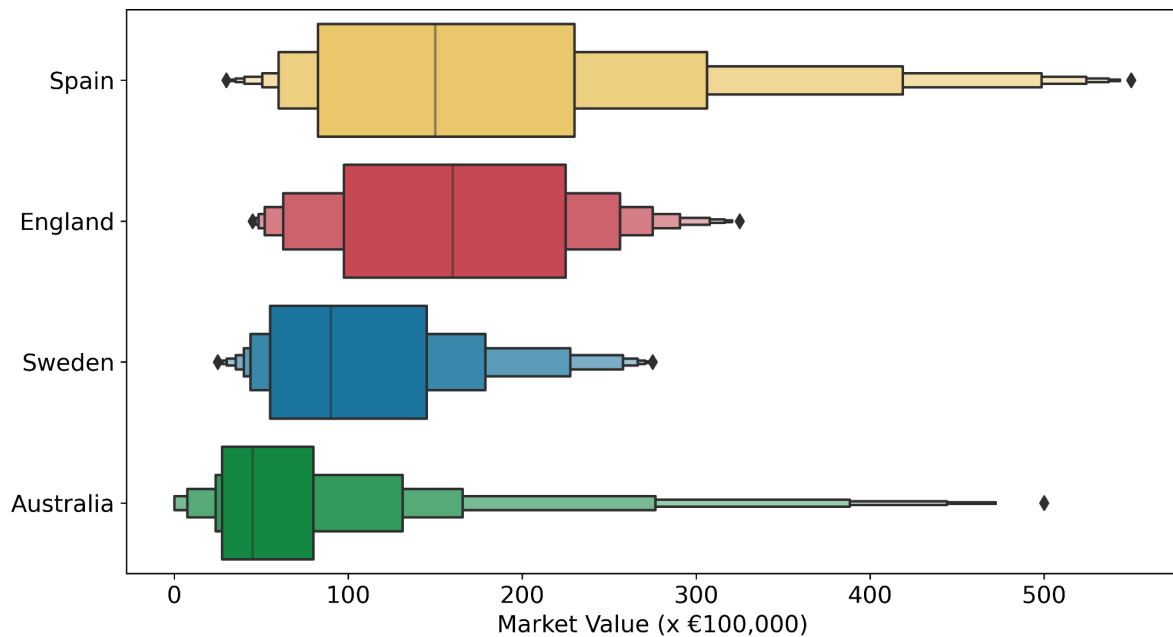
Spain has the most cohesive squad remaining. With 9 players from FC Barcelona, they have a team that not only gels well together, but one that has valuable experience playing and winning important knockout matches. The largest cohort of the team won the Champions League Final at the beginning of June - they know what it takes to win, and they will be bringing that experience forward into the final two games of the World Cup.



## Squad Ability - Market Value

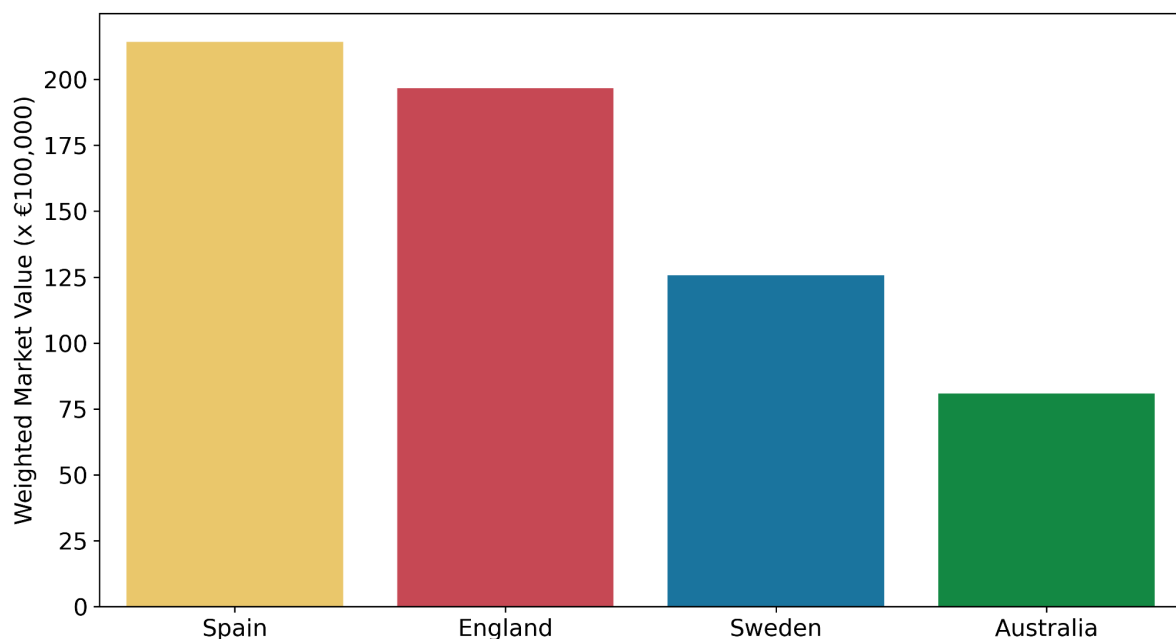
- ▶ Market Value is an estimate of how much a player would be sold for in the transfer market. Star players are likely to have higher transfer values, making Market Value a good proxy for player ability.

Market Value of Tournament Squads



- ▶ Spain has the largest number of high value, high quality players in their squad of any of the remaining Semi Finalists

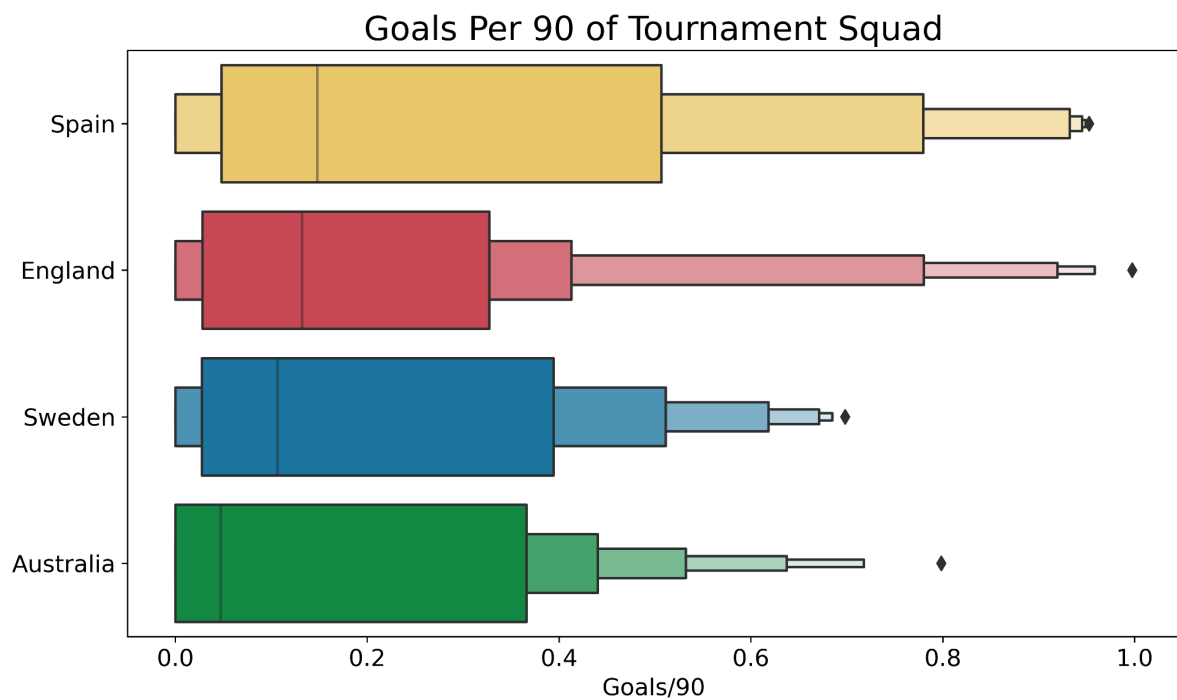
Market Value x Playing Minutes





- ▶ Not only this, but Spain has been able to get the most value onto the pitch of any of the semi finalists.

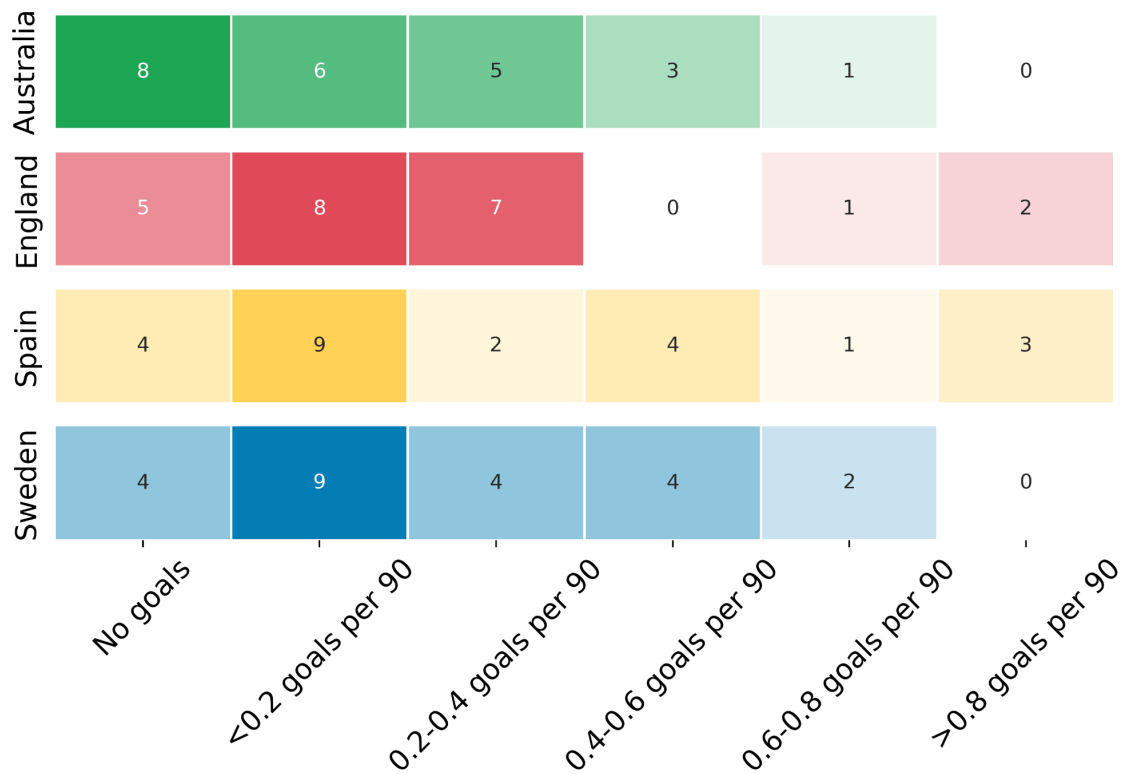
## Squad Ability - Goals, Assists, Dominance



- ▶ Coming into the world cup (the 12 months preceding the world cup), Spain's squad has had the highest goal scoring rate in club and international football.



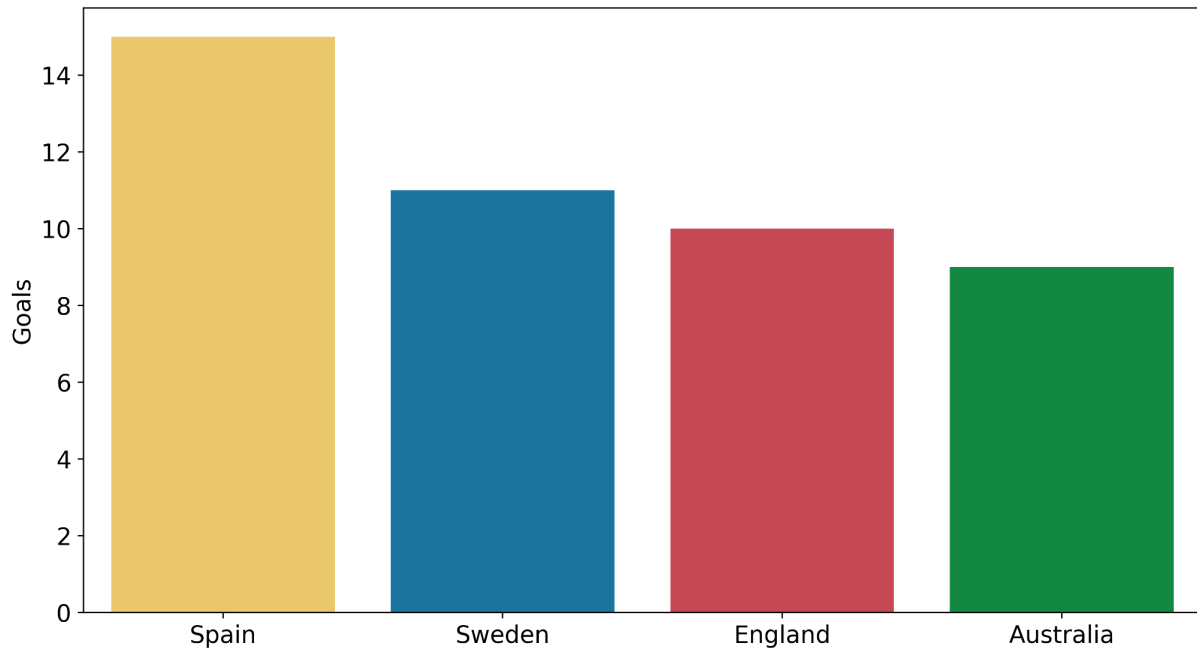
## Goals Per 90 of Tournament Squad



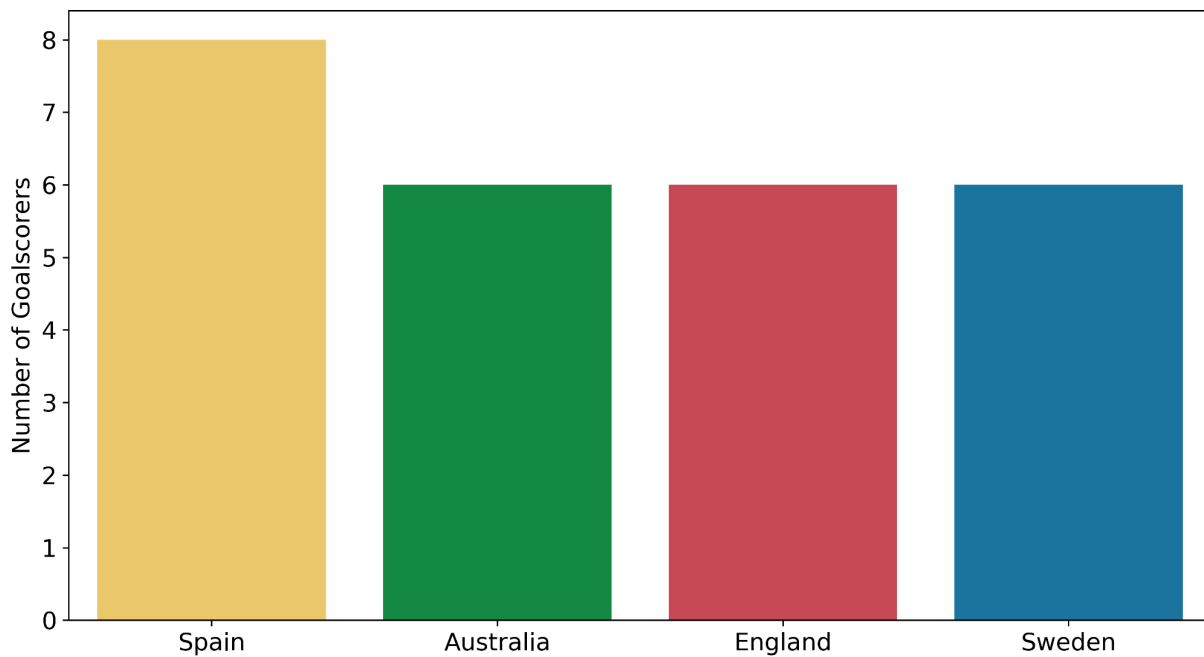
- ▶ Spain also has the highest number of elite strikers - players who score over 0.6 goals per 90 minutes - in their squad (4) compared to the other semi finalists.
  - ▶ Salma Paralluelo - 0.95 goals per 90
  - ▶ Alba Redondo - 0.94 goals per 90
  - ▶ Esther González - 0.92 goals per 90
  - ▶ Jennifer Hermoso - 0.73 goals per 90



## World Cup 2023 Goals



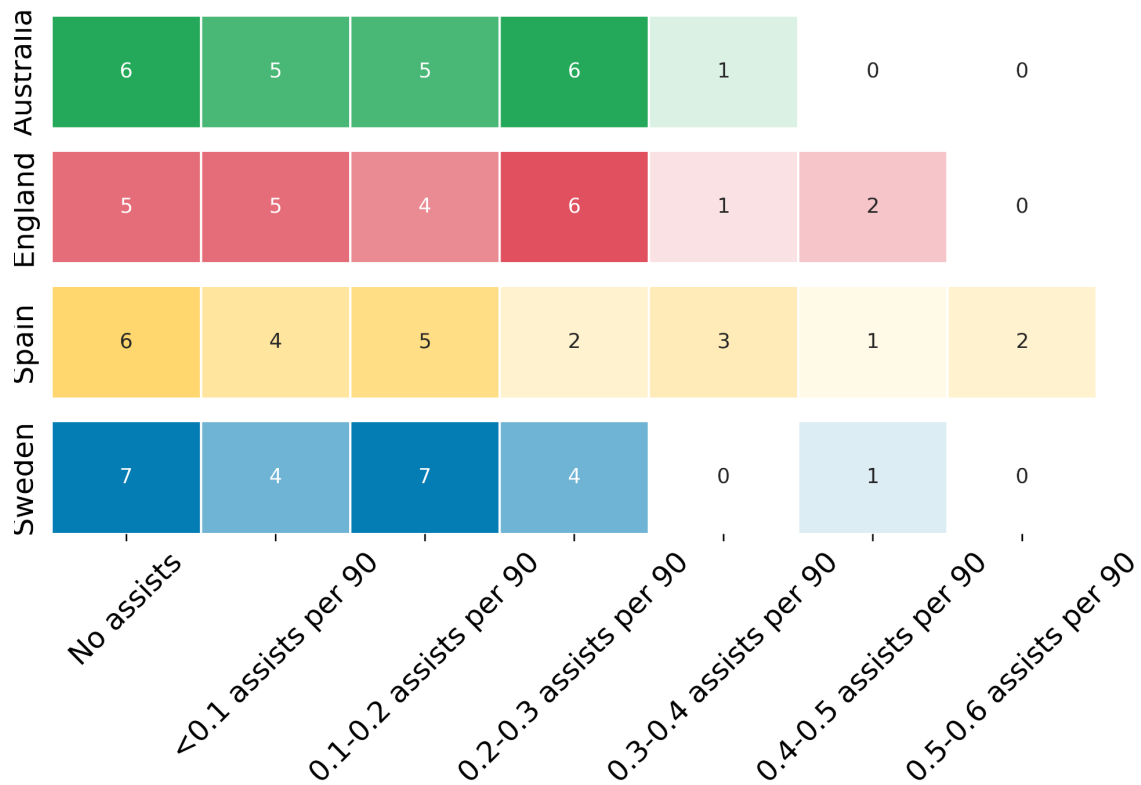
## Goalscorers at 2023 World Cup



- ▶ This has borne out in the tournament. Spain's players have scored the highest number of goals (14 - own goals not included) of any team in the tournament.
- ▶ They also have the highest number of goalscorers. Spain is the least reliant on a single player for their goals, meaning they are least vulnerable to any individual player having an off day.



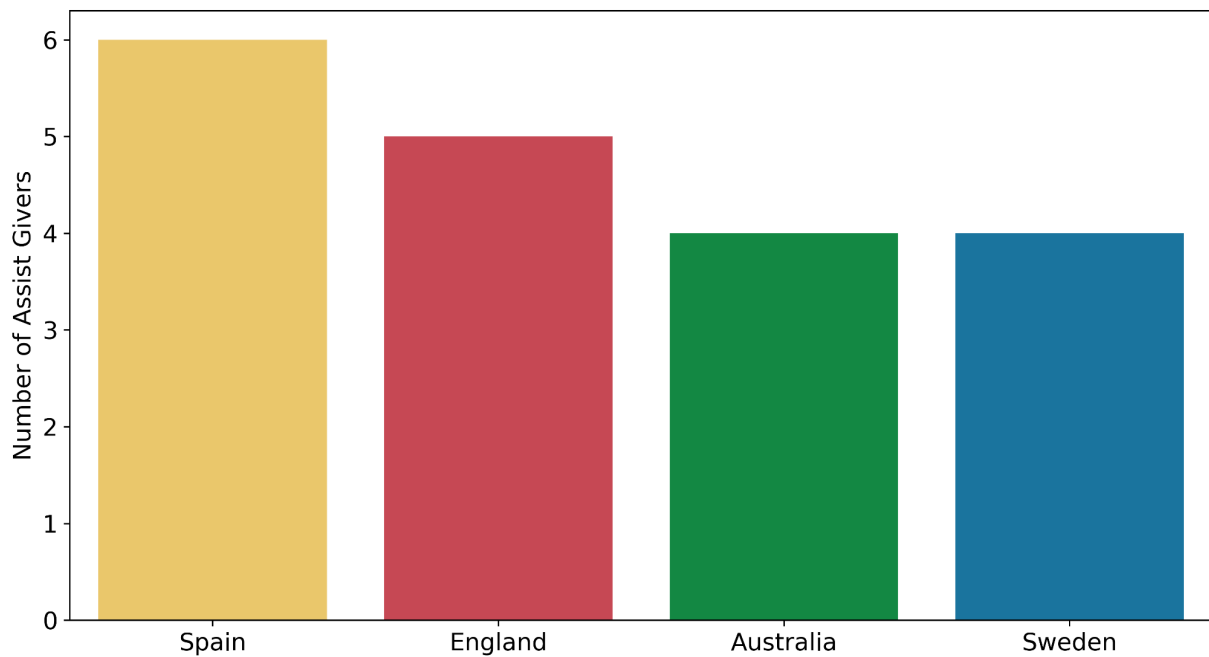
## Assists Per 90 of Tournament Squad



- ▶ Spain also has the greatest number of elite assist givers (3 with more than 0.4 assists per 90) remaining in the tournament based on the 12 months going into the tournament.
  - ▶ Aitana Bonmatí - 0.58 assists per 90
  - ▶ Ona Batlle - 0.51 assists per 90
  - ▶ Mariona Caldentey - 0.46 assists per 90

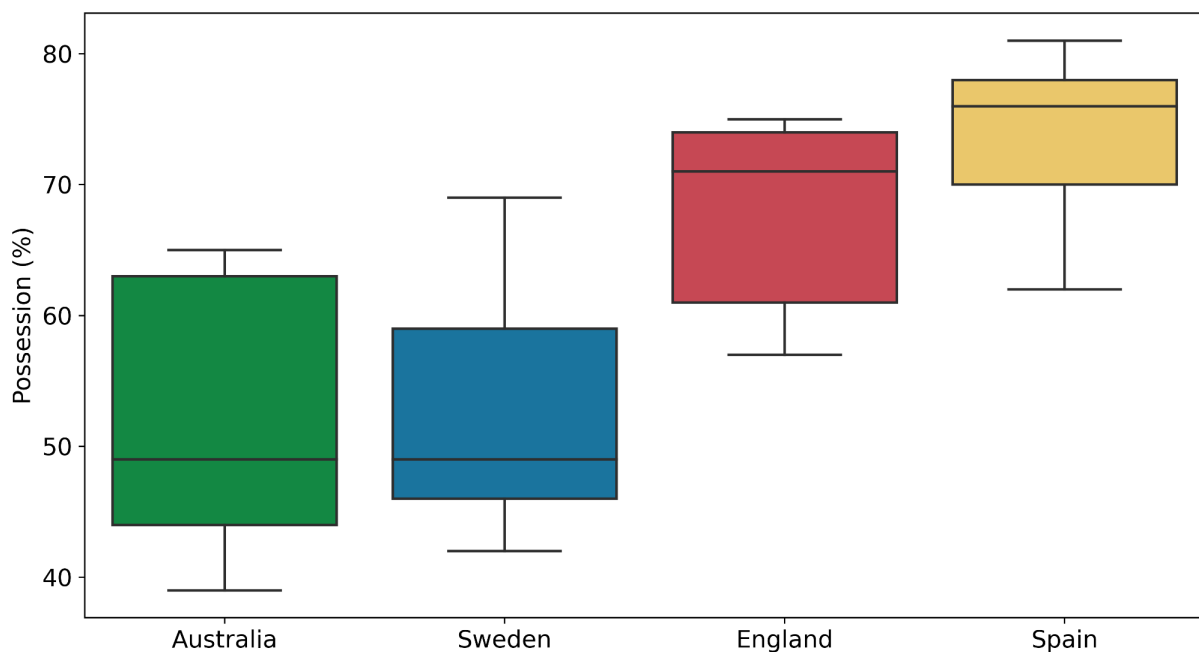


## Assist Givers at 2023 World Cup



- ▶ This has also borne out in the tournament. 6 different players have assisted goals for Spain, the most of any team in the tournament.

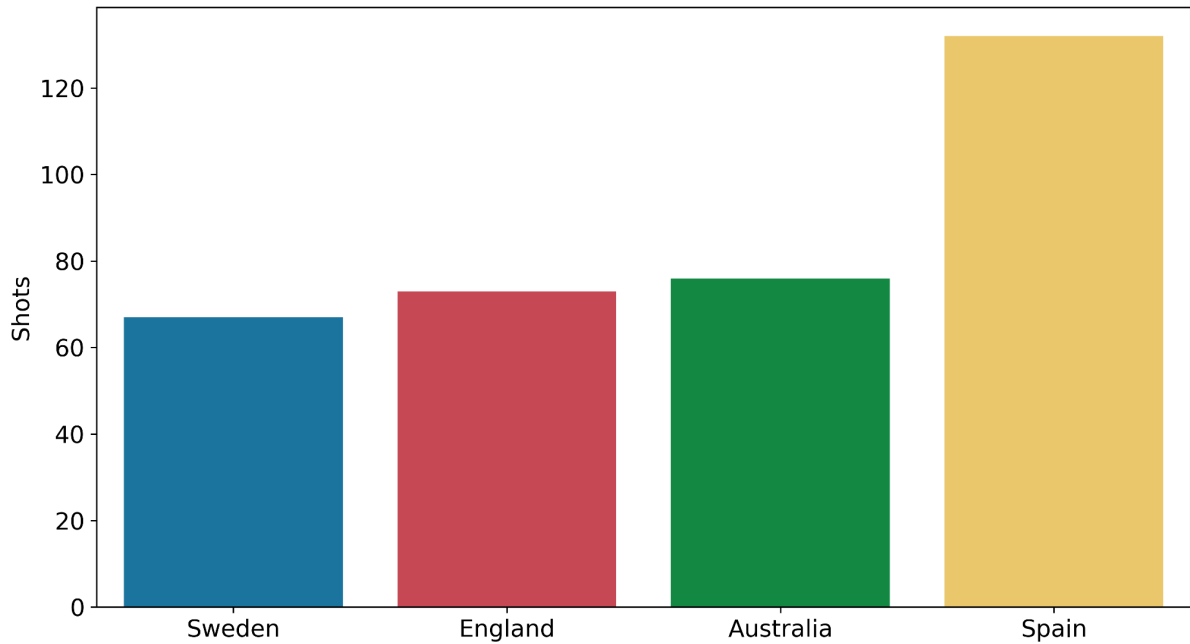
## 2023 World Cup Possession



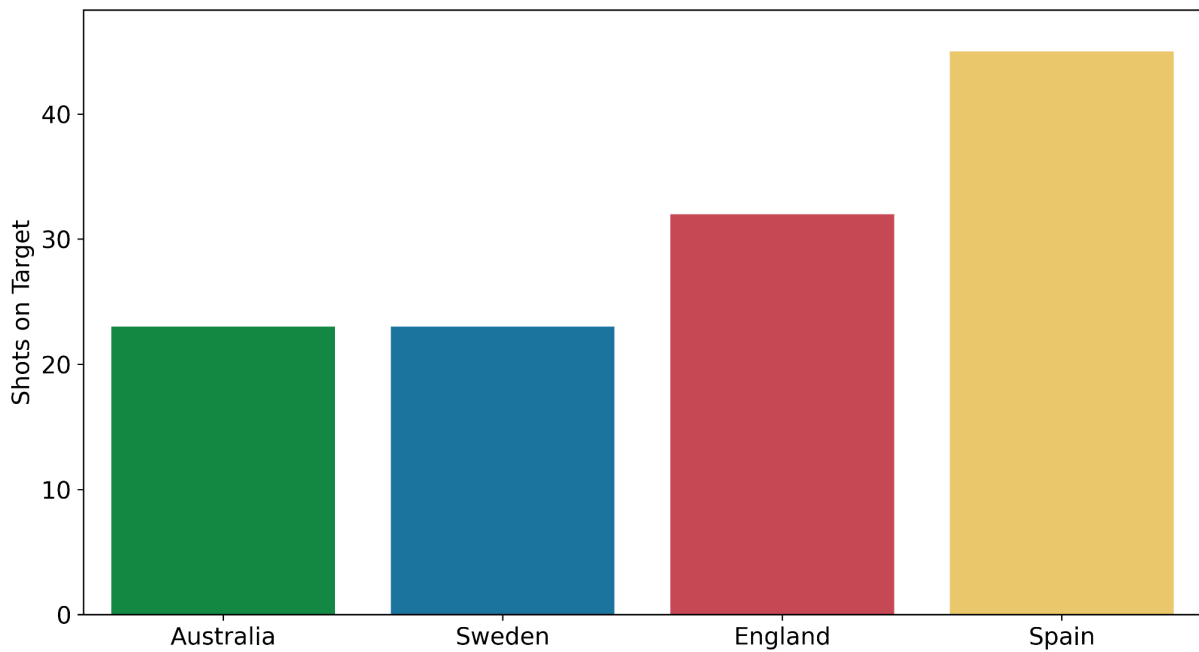
- ▶ The higher player quality has shown throughout the tournament. Spain has bossed most of their games and have the highest possession in the tournament.



### 2023 World Cup Shots



### 2023 World Cup Shots on Target



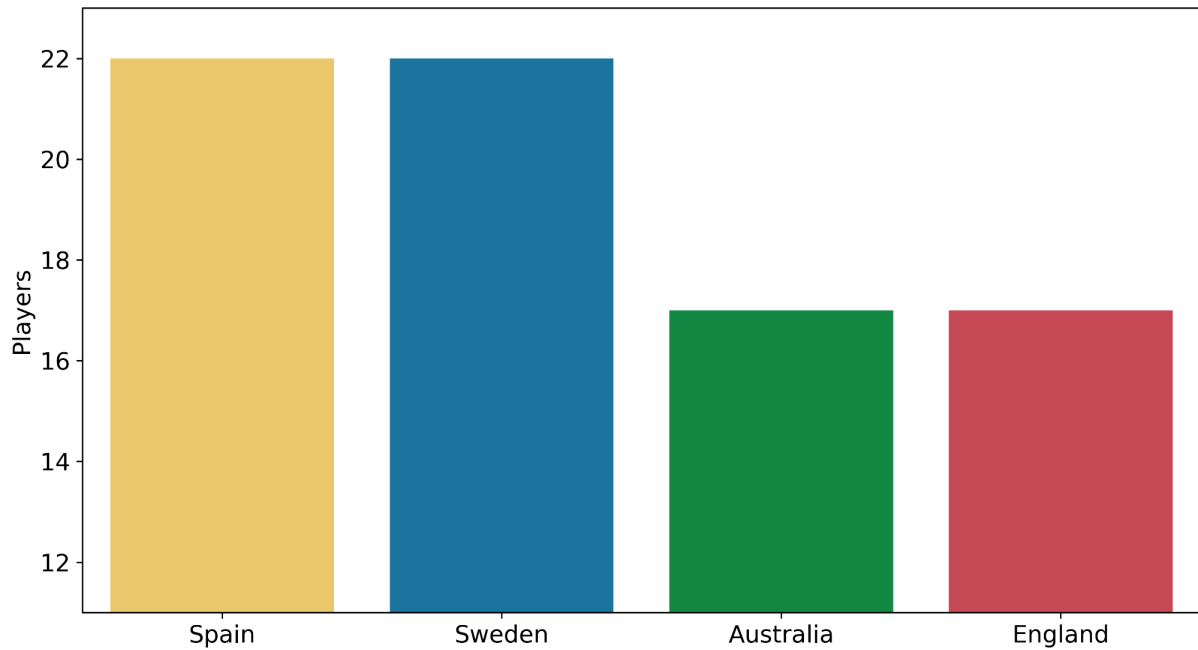
- ▶ Spain has generated the highest number of shots and shots on target of any team due to the high quality creative players and forwards they have in their team.





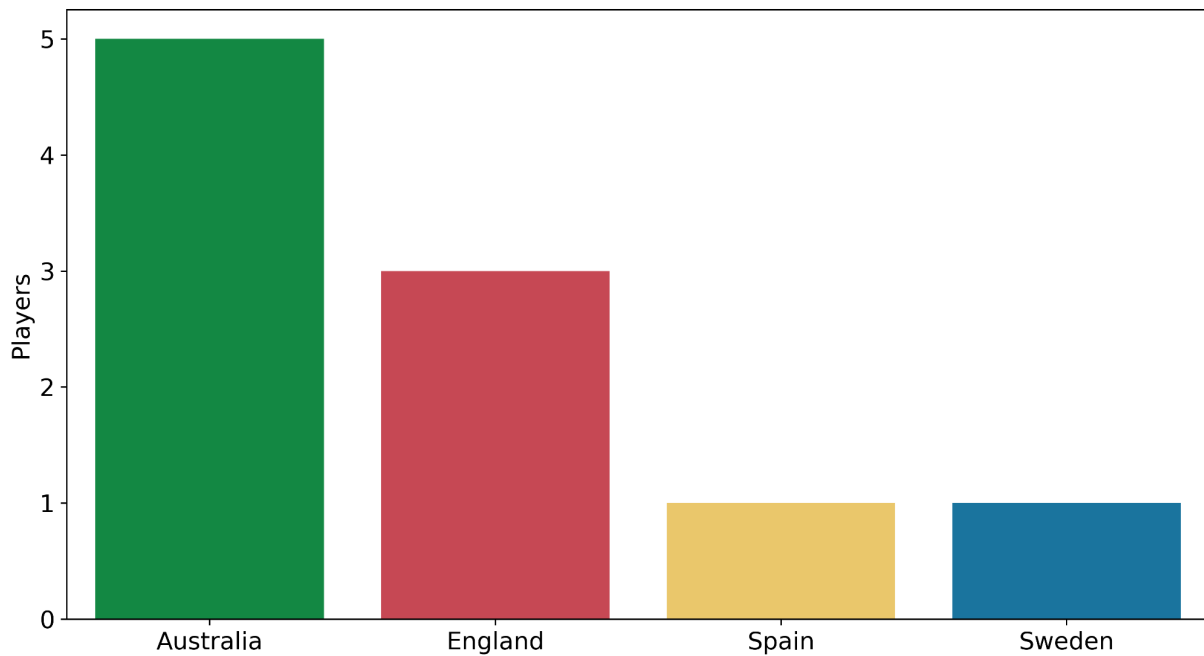
# Squad Management and Rotation

2023 World Cup Players Used



- ▶ Spain has used all except one player in their squad

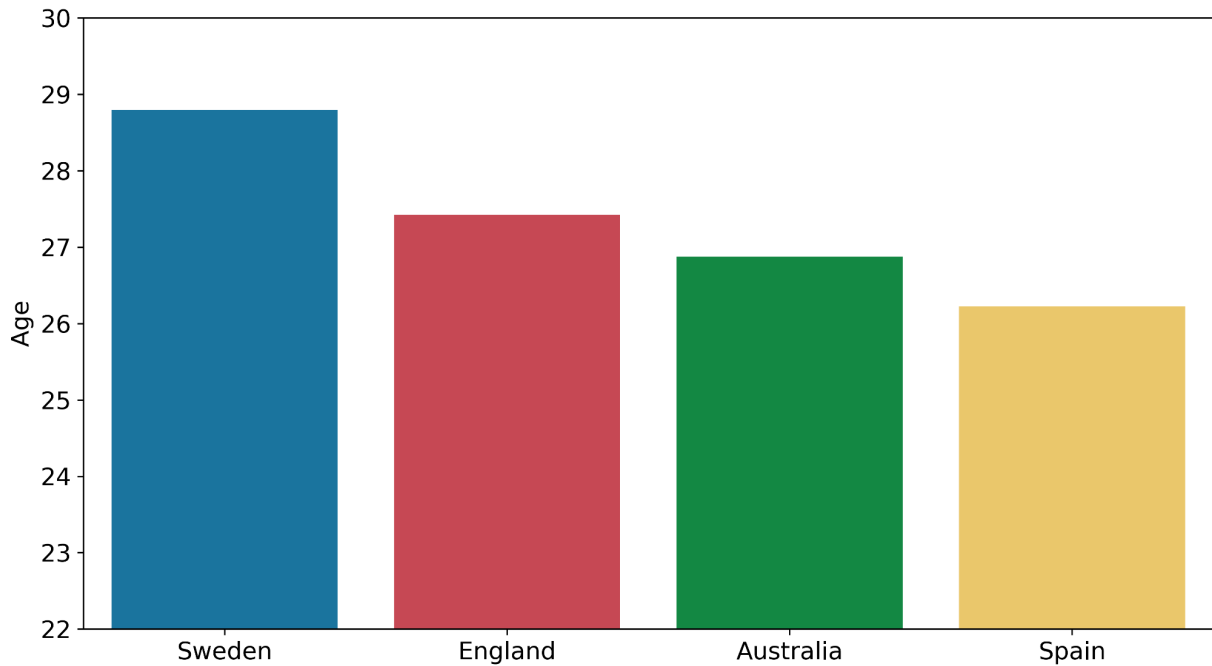
2023 World Cup - Played Every Minute



- ▶ Only a single Spanish player has played every minute in the tournament

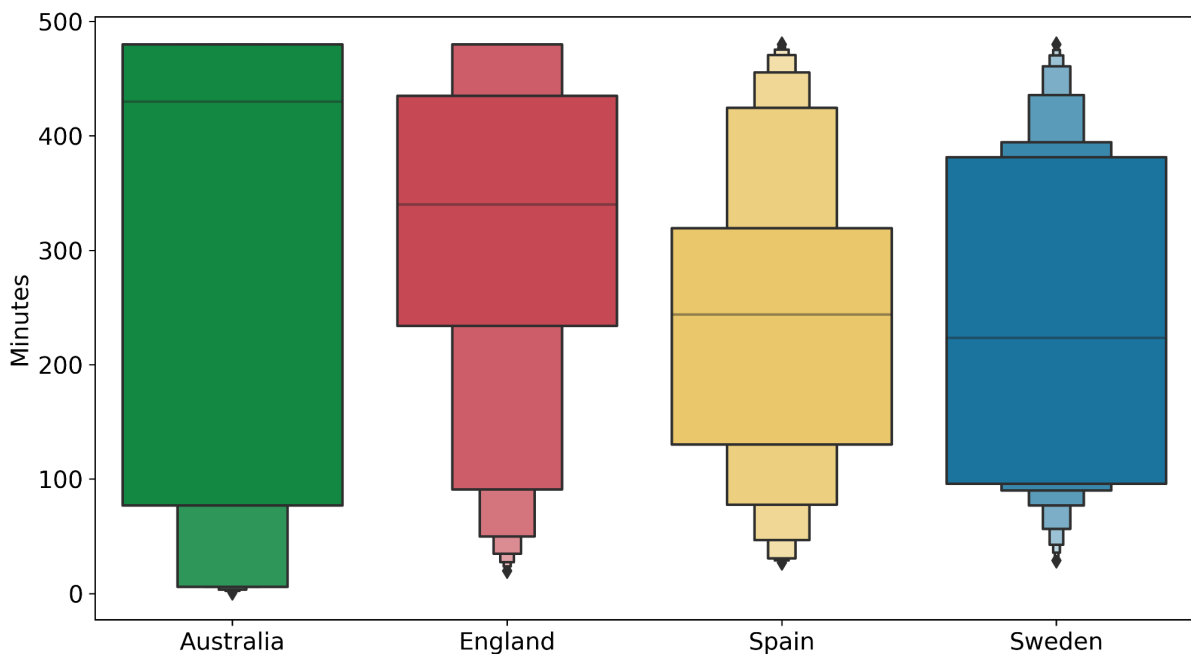


### Player Age x Playing Minutes



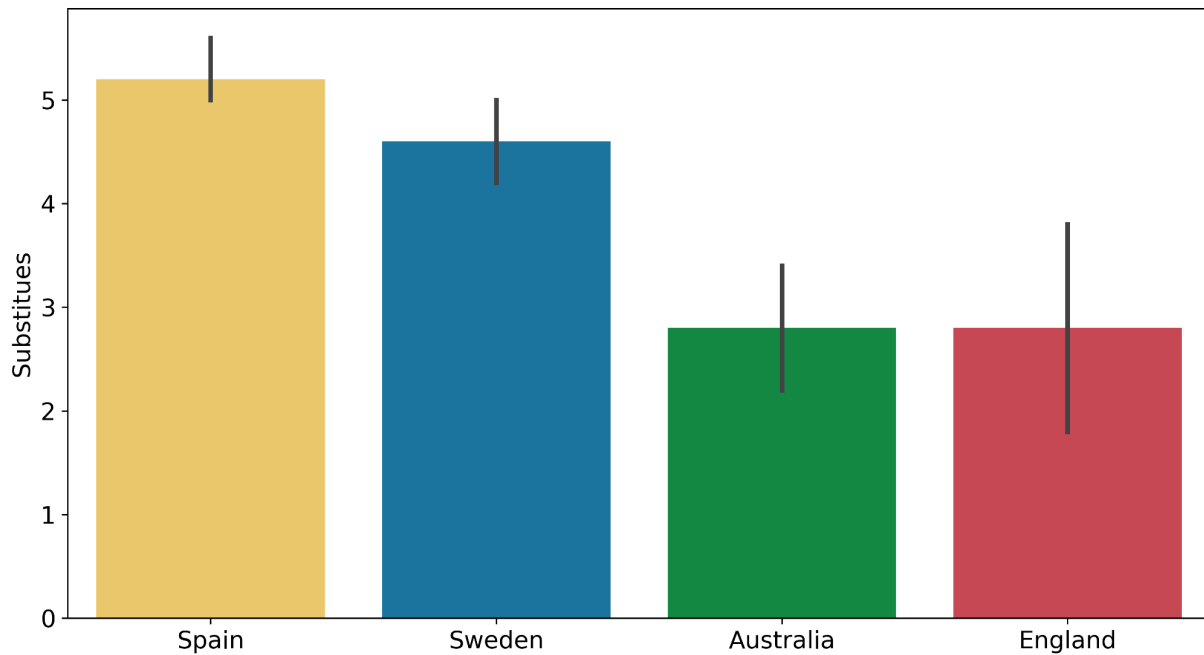
- ▶ Spain's playing squad is younger than their opponents, and they are likely capable of better handling the high load that has been placed on the squads at this point of the tournament

### 2023 World Cup Minutes Played

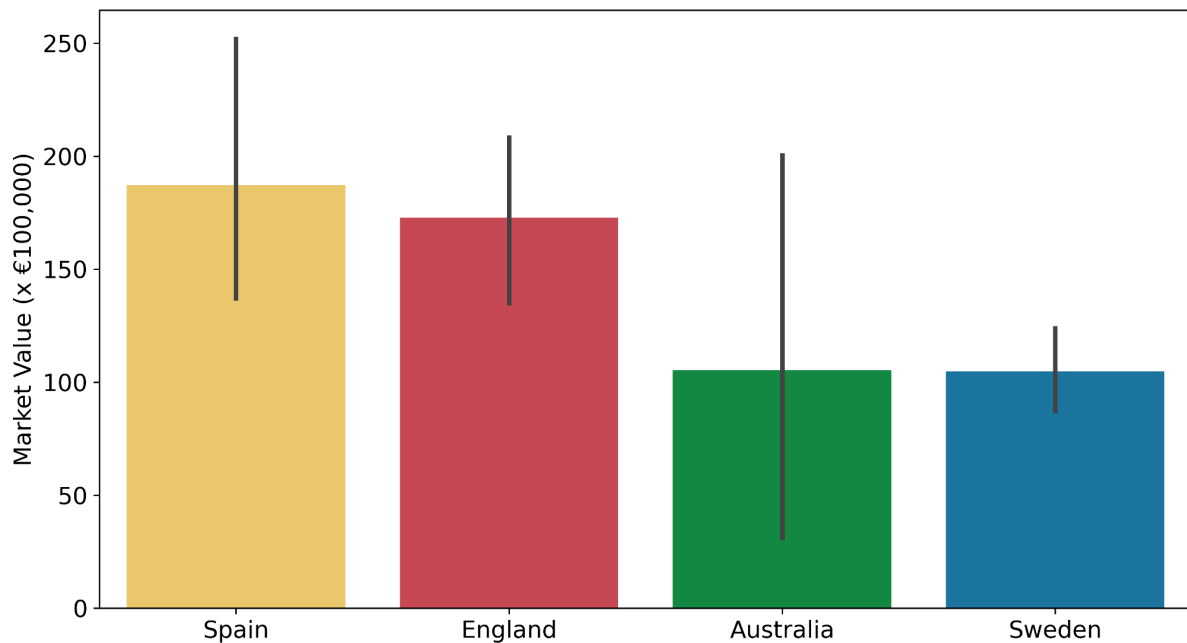


- ▶ Spain's squad has done a good job of managing minutes, with the majority of their squad having played between 150 and 325 minutes

## 2023 World Cup Substitues



## 2023 World Cup Substitute Market Value



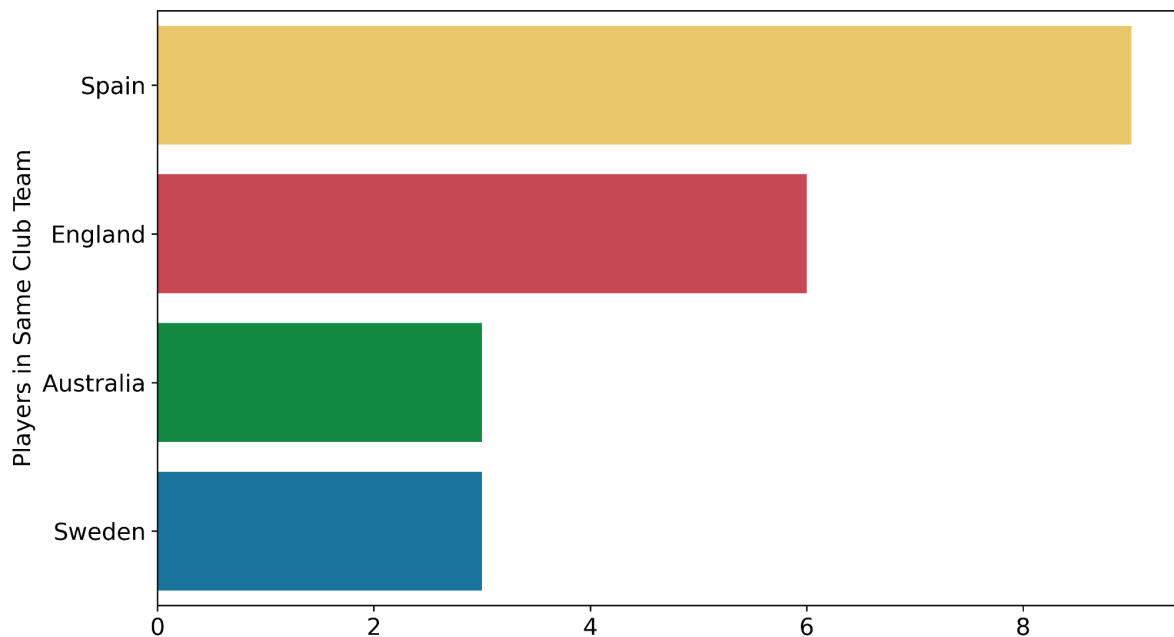
- ▶ Spain has been able to make the most substitutions of any team left in the tournament, even taking advantage of FIFA's 6th substitute rule in their game against the Netherlands
- ▶ They have the luxury of making this many substitutions because the quality (Market Value) of the players that they are bringing into the squad are higher than their competitors.



## Squad Chemistry

- ▶ Players that play together frequently are likely to perform better as a squad. They are the traits of their teammates, know each other's tendencies and are likely to gel better with one another when the team gets tired and decision making becomes more difficult

2023 World Cup Squad Chemistry



- ▶ Spain has the highest chemistry of all teams left in the tournament (measured by the number of players playing within the same club side). Spain have 9 players from FC Barcelona
- ▶ Not only is the team likely to be familiar with one another, but with FC Barcelona the 2023 Champions League Winners, Spain has a large proportion of players familiar with competing in and winning high-stakes knockout matches in the recent past.