



Why Sweden Will Win The World Cup

Executive Summary

Two words give the biggest reason Sweden is going to win this world cup - set pieces. Sweden's strength lies in its physicality; on average their players are taller than 75% of other players left in the tournament. This gives them an advantage over the opposition any time the ball is in the air and in any dead-ball situation, something they have used to devastating effect. Of their 11 goals, 7 have come as a result of set pieces. Four goals have been scored directly, two penalties have been won, and a further goal has come from post-set-piece chaos. Amanda Ilestedt, a centre back, is their top scorer with four as a result. Clearly, Sweden's height is too much for their opponents to handle.

Sweden is the most experienced team left in the tournament. They have wise heads that have done it at the international level before. Experience is going to be crucial at the business end of this tournament. While tiredness can sometimes be the downfall of older sides, this isn't a concern for the Swedes. They got their business done early in the group stages and were able to rest players against Argentina. As a result, their players have played the fewest minutes in the world cup - Sweden is in a great physical condition to compete in the latter stages.

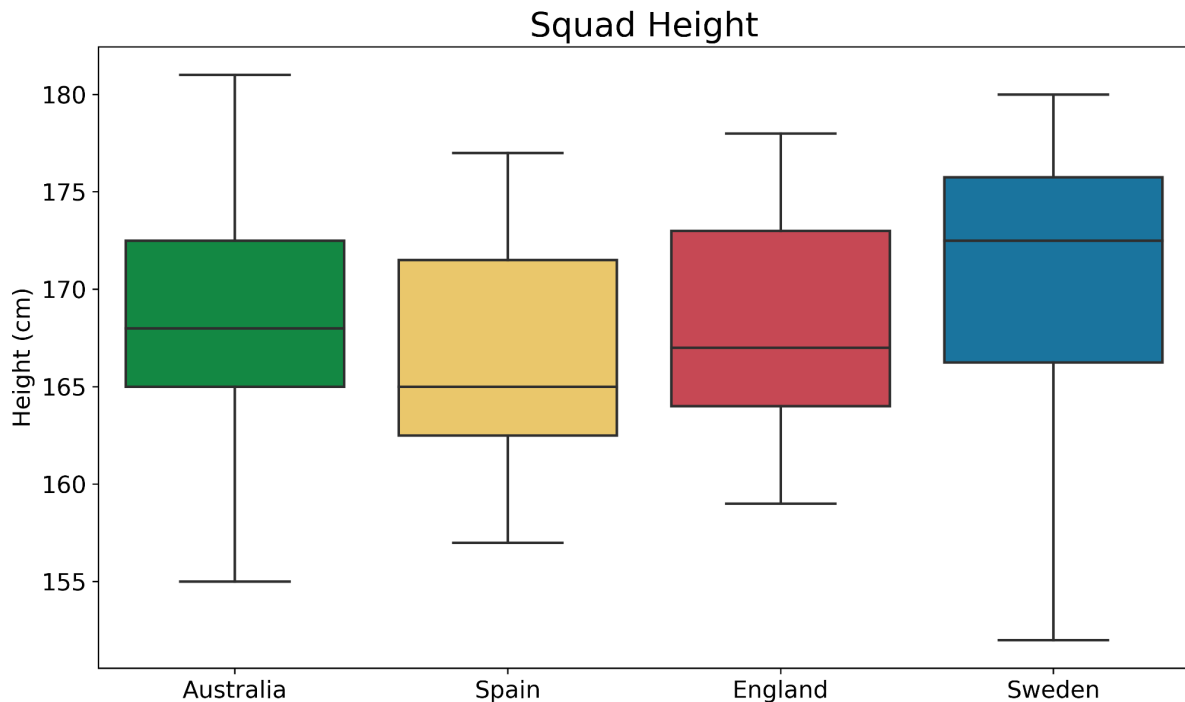
Sweden is not a side that needs to dominate the game or create many opportunities. Sweden is by far the most clinical side remaining in the competition. They have the fewest goals conceded (2) and the best save percentage (conceding just 9% of shots on target). They do not need many chances to score a goal, and other teams need a lot of opportunities to put one in the net. They have an ideal matchup against Spain, who gives up a lot of goals from few chances, and also has a poor conversion rate.

Sweden is the highest ranked side left in the competition, and is even outperforming what the FIFA world rankings would suggest. They have knocked out pre-tournament favourites, the USA, and just beat the previously



highest performing team in the tournament. Sweden is a strong team, and they are clearly peaking during this tournament.

Physical Dominance

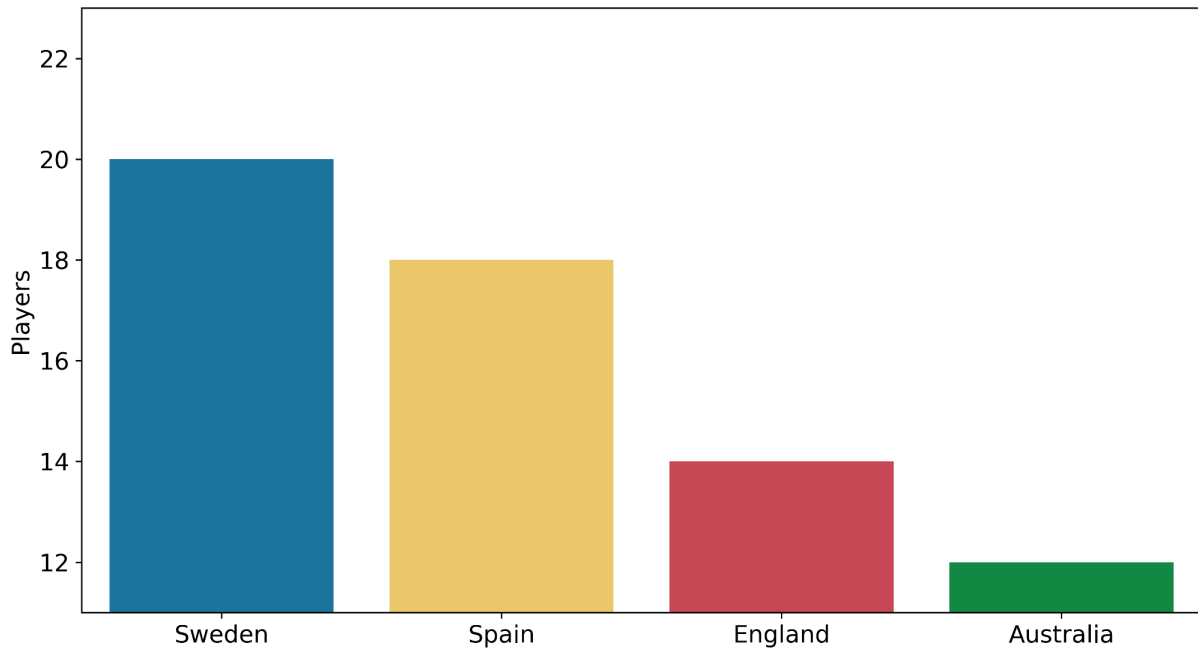


- ▶ Sweden has the tallest squad of any of the semi finalists. The median (average) height of their squad is 172.5cm. This is as tall (or taller) than the to 75th percentile of heights of the other sides. Essentially, half of Sweden's squad is taller than 75% of their competitors.
- ▶ This height advantage gives Sweden a massive edge at what they do best - set pieces. Overall, 7 of their 11 goals have come as a result of set pieces (4 goals direct from set pieces, 2 converted penalties from set pieces, 1 goal from resultant set piece phase).

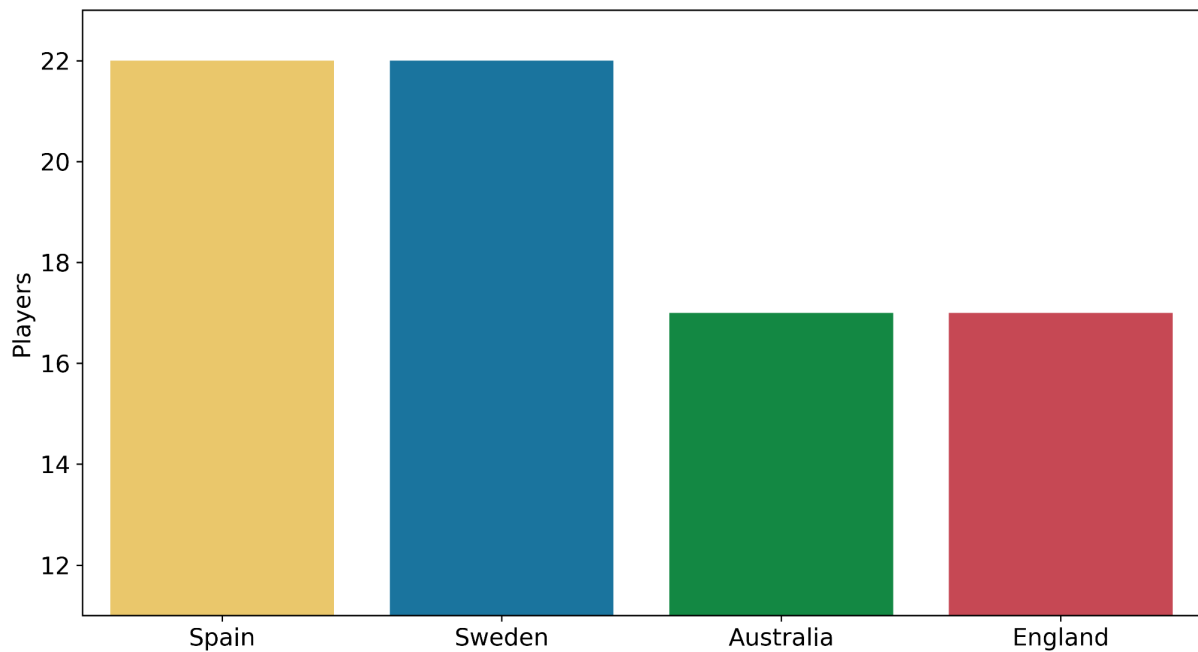


Load Management

2023 World Cup Starters



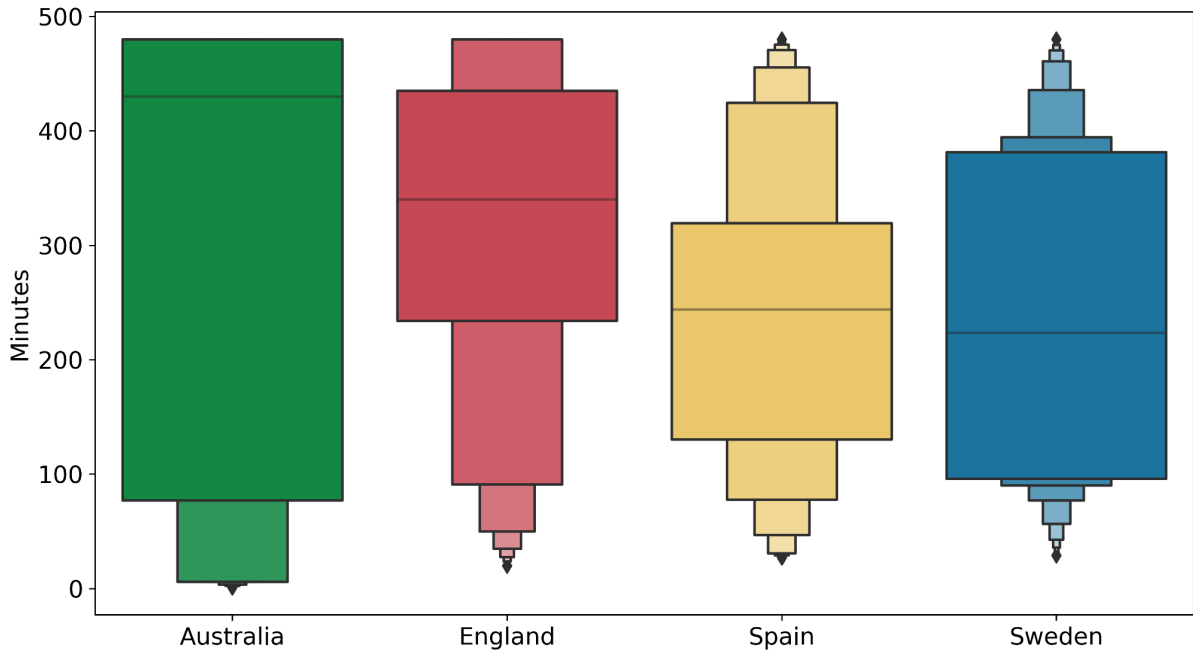
2023 World Cup Players Used



- ▶ Sweden has started 20 players in the world cup, and 22 of the squad of 23 have received game minutes.

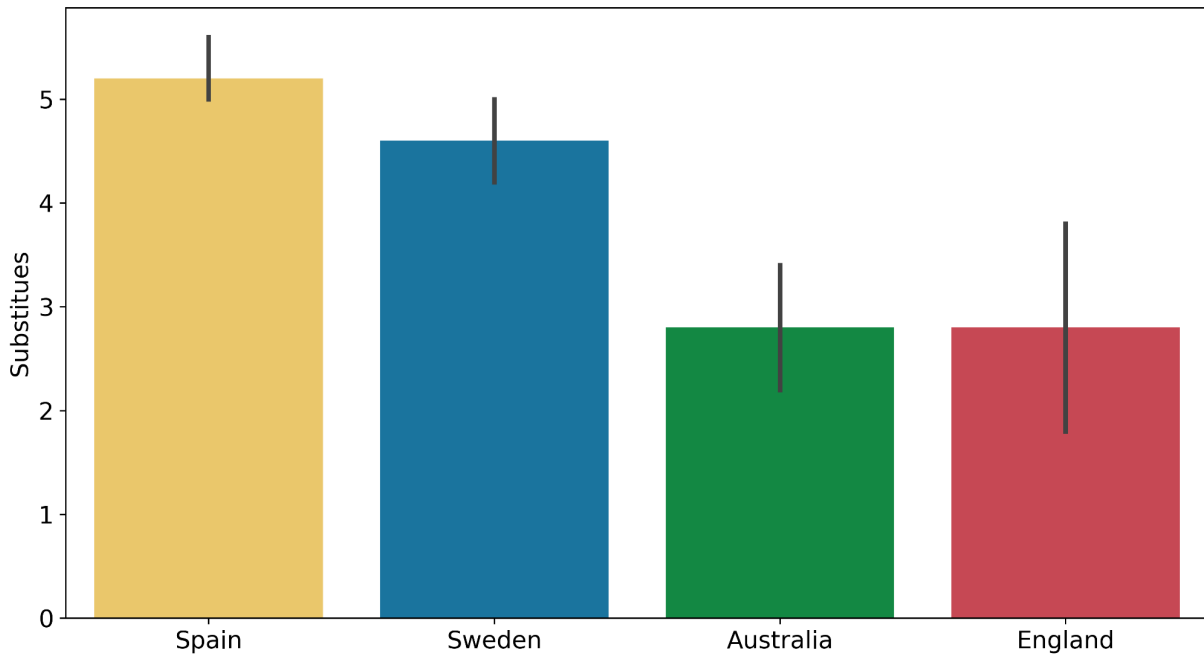


2023 World Cup Minutes Played



- ▶ Sweden's players have played the lowest number of minutes of any of the remaining sides in the world cup

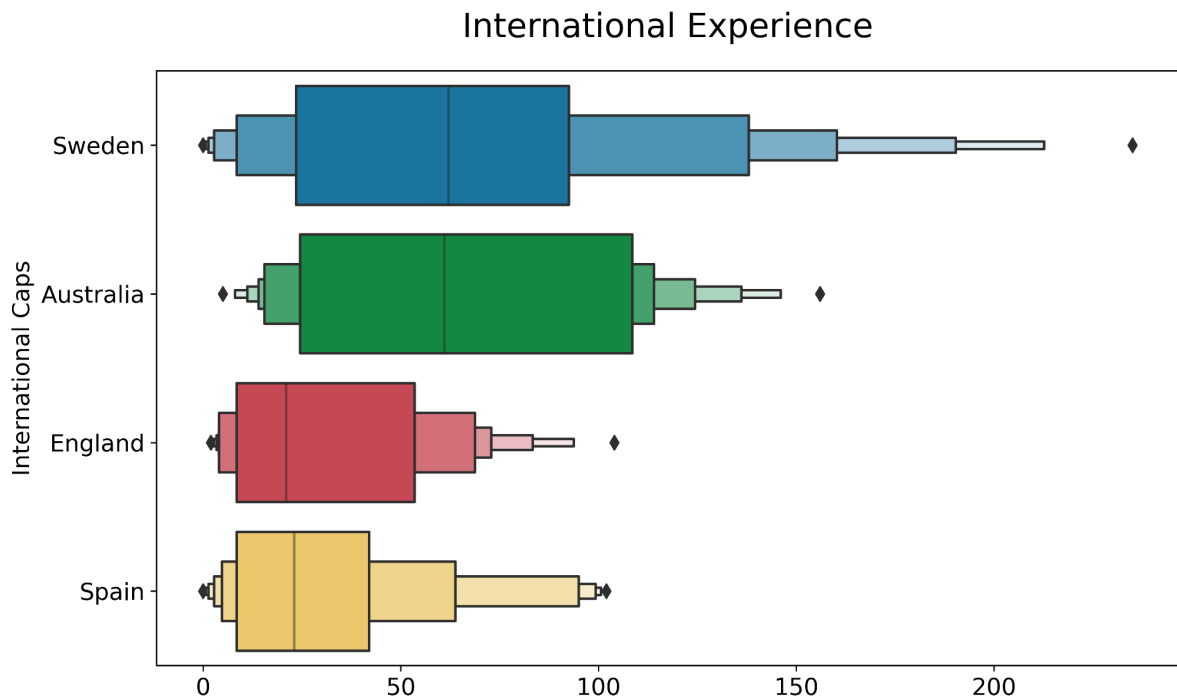
2023 World Cup Substitutes



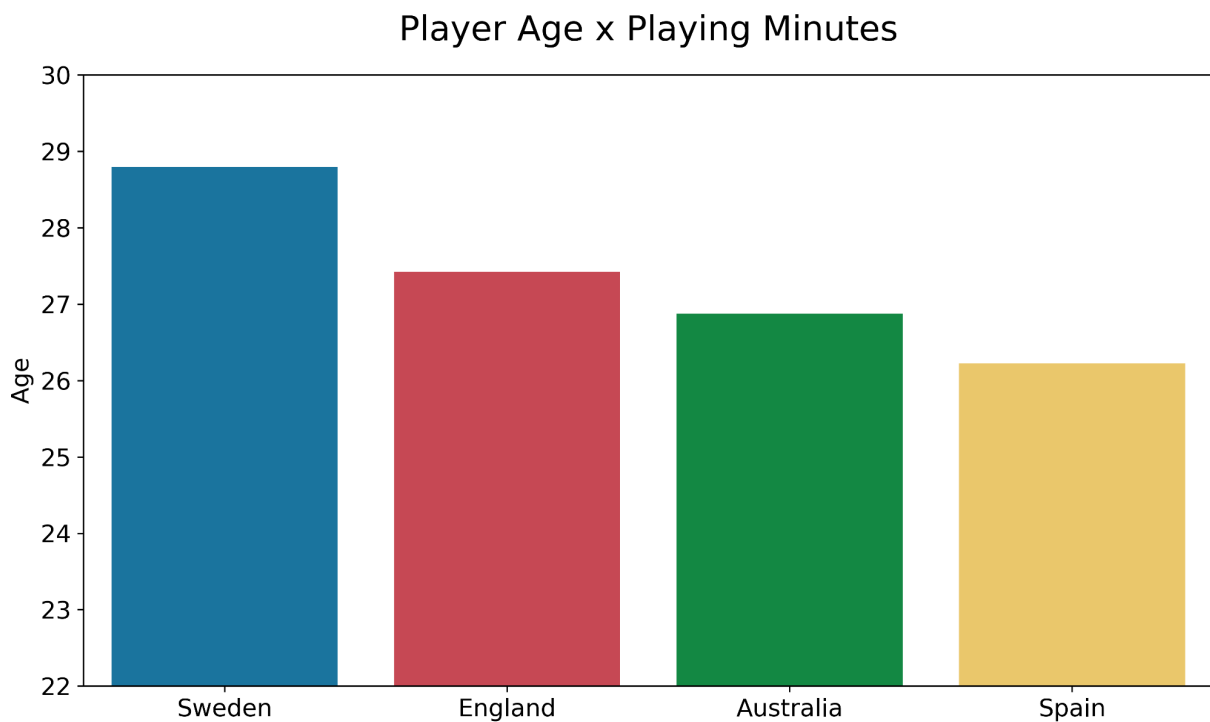
- ▶ Sweden has rotated as much as any side in the world cup, averaging nearly 5 substitutions per game.



International Experience

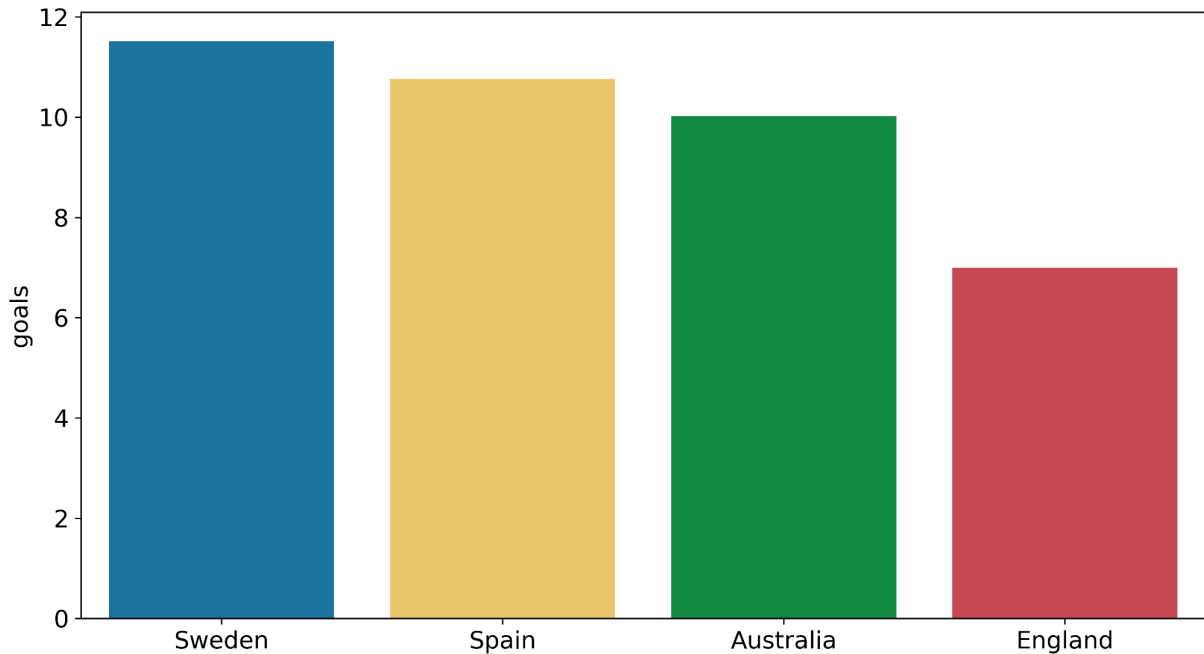


- ▶ Sweden has the most experienced squad remaining in the world cup. Their most experienced players have played over 200 international matches.





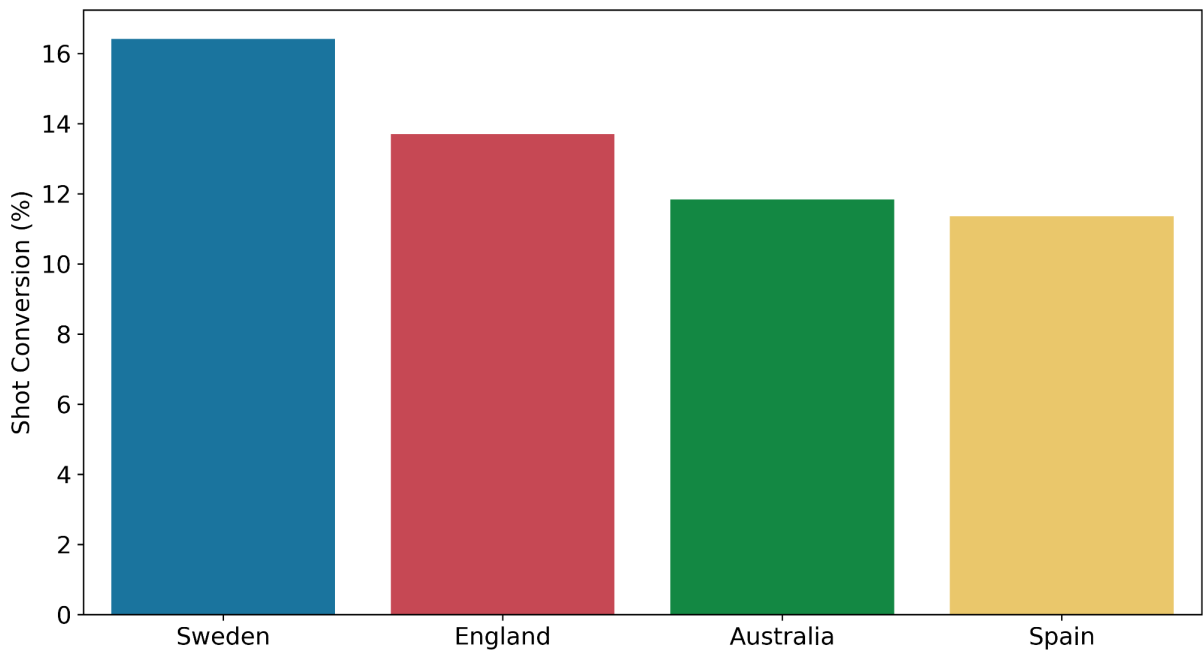
Player Minutes x International Goals



- ▶ Sweden's playing team has also been a full year older than any other team in the competition.
- ▶ These players have also scored the most international goals of any remaining side.

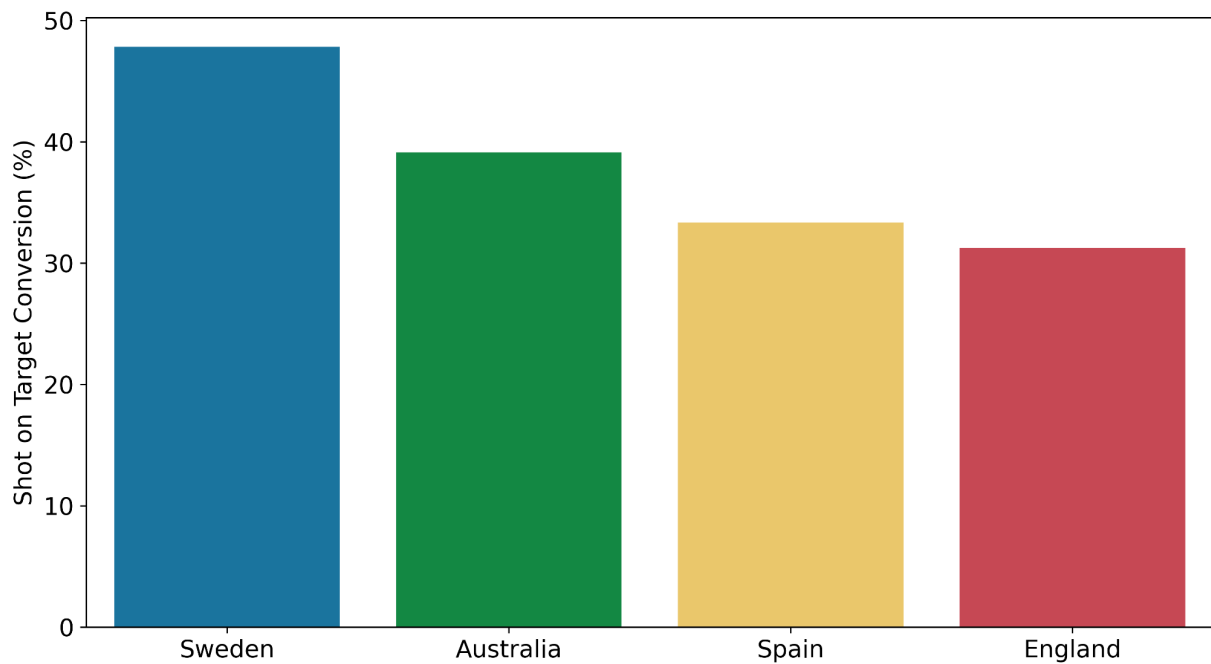
Shot Conversion

2023 World Cup Shot Conversion



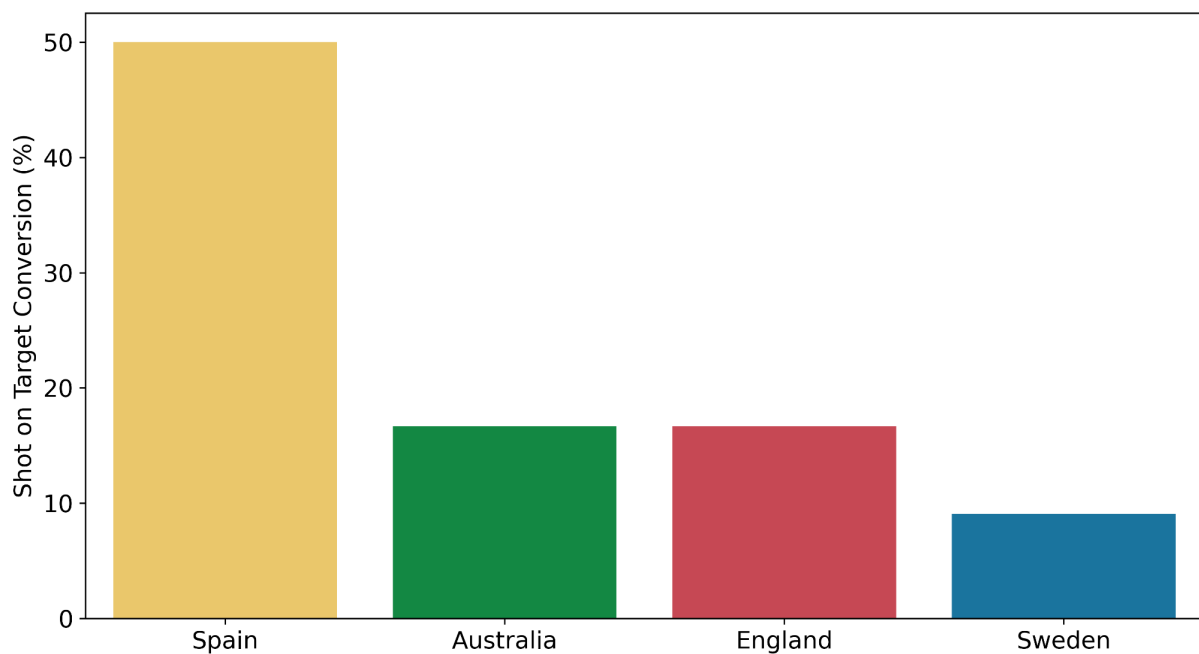


2023 World Cup Shot on Target Conversion



- ▶ Sweden has the best shot conversion of any of the semi finalists. They score over 16% of their shots, and convert nearly 50% of their shots on target. Clinical.

2023 World Cup Shot on Target Conversion (Against)



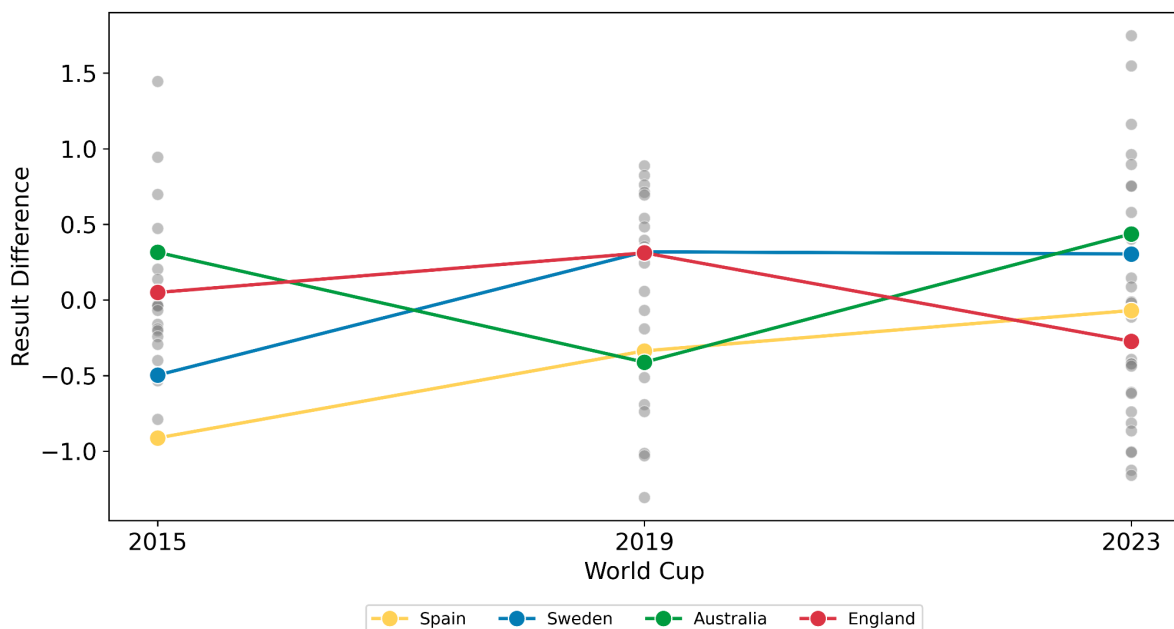
- ▶ Conversely, they are conceding the smallest number of shots on target. Their goalkeeper is boasting the best save percentage of any of the remaining goalkeepers.



Rankings and Results Rarely Lie

Team	World Ranking	Team Rating
Sweden	3	2050
England	4	2041
Spain	6	2002
Australia	10	1920

2023 World Cup Over/Underperformance



- ▶ Sweden is the highest remaining ranked team in the 2023 World Cup, currently rated 3rd in the world.
- ▶ Sweden is outperforming their current ranking, they have picked up better results over the course of the tournament than their current rating would suggest
- ▶ Sweden has knocked out the USWNT, overwhelming favourites, in the last 16. They have also knocked out Japan who were the highest performing side going into the quarter finals.