

Match Overview

On June 29, 2021, England faced Germany in the Euro 2020. England won 2-0. This report uses the official player and team data, along with selected insights from StatsBomb's open event dataset, to analyse the key performance differences between the two sides and explain how England secured the win, with visual figures generated using Python, pandas and matplotlib.

Team Performance Comparison

England made the most of fewer chances, converting **2 goals** from just **5 shots** with an average shot distance of **11.3 yards**. Their efficiency is shown in a high xG per shot (**0.23**), while Germany's **9 shots** failed to score, with a lower xG per shot of **0.12** from long-range attempts (avg **16.4 yards**). See **Figure 1** (Shot Map) for shot distributions with player annotation.

Germany had more possession (**54% vs. England's 46%**) and made **9 deep completions** into the final third (vs. **England's 3**) but struggled to create clear-cut chances. Both teams produced just **1** clear shot, though Germany's **3** high-press shots show their attempts to regain possession aggressively, compared to England's **1**. England's superior dribble success rate (**67%** from **12 attempts**) and selective shots creation contributed greatly to their attacking edge, despite having less possession. Germany had **4** shots off target and **3** saved, while England had just **1** off target and **2** saved. Germany committed **13** fouls; England **12**, and both teams had **3** corners.

Player Performance Overview

Raheem Sterling and Harry Kane were the most impactful players; Sterling opened the scoring in the **74th** minute following an assist from Luke Shaw with a left-footed ground pass. In the **85th** minute, Jack Grealish assisted Harry Kane with a low left-footed pass, which Kane finished with a header. These moments were the highest xG chances in the game with (**Sterling: 0.53 xG** from **2 shots**; **Kane: 0.44 xG** from **1 shot**). In contrast, Germany's Thomas Müller produced **0.35 xG** from **2 shots** but failed to score, while Leon Goretzka went goalless despite attempting **3 shots** with a combined xG of **0.12**. Sterling was the most active dribbler on the pitch, attempting **7 dribbles** at a **57%** success rate. Kai Havertz and Serge Gnabry were key creators for Germany, each producing **3 line-breaking passes** in the final third. Gnabry's total included **1** each at **2m**, **5m**, and **10m depth**, showing varied penetration. Havertz delivered **2 passes** at **2m** and **1** at **5m**. England's Luke Shaw contributed **2 line-breaking passes** (**1** at **2m** and **1** at **5m**), and Declan Rice had **1** at **2m**. See **Figure 1** (Shot Map) for shot locations and outcomes. In terms of dribble efficiency, Harry Kane, Luke Shaw, Bukayo Saka, and Leon Goretzka each attempted **1 dribble** with **100% success**. Declan Rice attempted **2 dribbles**, with **50%** success, while Havertz attempted **3** with a **33%** success rate. Although Germany had more total attacking actions, it lacked an end product. England players were more efficient with decisive contributions.

Passing & Progression Summary

Germany progressed the ball more frequently and with greater volume throughout the match. They completed **10 line-breaking passes** into space in the final third, compared to England's **6**. These actions were driven by Kai Havertz and Serge Gnabry, with key support from Joshua Kimmich and Toni Kroos, who added **2 passes** each. In contrast, England's progression came primarily through Luke Shaw, with **1** each from Declan Rice and Kieran Trippier. Germany recorded **4 passes** into the penalty box, while England managed **2**, respectively. Germany also attempted and completed more passes overall (**470 successful passes** at **85%** accuracy), maintaining a slightly higher passing rate than England (**395 successful passes** at **83%**). However, while Germany was able to sustain possession, they were unable to convert it into meaningful chances, in contrast to England's more selective play, which gave them the win.

Pressing & Defensive Work

England were more aggressive in pressing, particularly in advanced areas. According to team data and Statsbomb data, they recorded **133** total pressures, the highest of both teams, with a final-third pressure success rate of **61%**, with the intensity increasing after the 60th minute. England also applied **15 counter pressures**, outperforming Germany's **11**, and achieved a slightly better success rate (**63%** vs. **58%**). See **Figure 4** (Pressure location Heatmaps) Germany's overall pressing volume was lower, with **120 pressures** and fewer actions occurring high up the pitch. This suggests a more defensive approach, whereas England showed a greater commitment to winning the ball back early and disrupting Germany's build-up play. England's high-up pressing helped limit Germany's ability to convert their progression into goal chances.

Conclusion & Key Takeaways

England's win came down to clinical and close-range finishing. As shown in **Figure 1**, both goals came from central areas, and the threat increased xG in the final 15 minutes. (see **Figure 3: xG**).