Medals Over Time: An Olympic Data Analysis

SQL For Data Science Capstone Project

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Client: SportsStats

(Olympics Dataset – 120 years of data)





SportsStats is a sports analysis firm partnering with local news and elite personal trainers to provide "interesting" insights to help their partners.

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Project Proposal

The Olympic Games feature a wide range of sports, from traditional events like athletics and swimming to newer additions such as skateboarding and surfing.

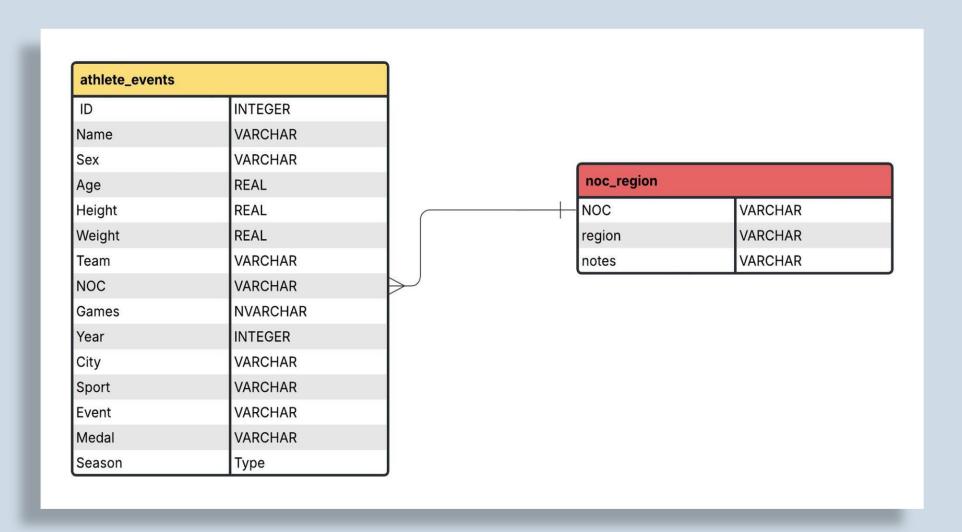
Over time, new sports have been added, and more countries have taken part. This means the number of athletes, events, and medals has grown a lot. The dataset shows interest in the Olympics over 120 years and highlights changes in which countries perform best at the Olympics. It helps us explore how athlete demographics, like age and gender, have shifted over the years.

This Olympic dataset can be useful for sports analysts, researchers and Sports Federations. It helps study how countries have performed over time and how participation has changed. National sports bodies might use it to plan training or understand medal trends.

Students and fans can also explore it to learn more about the history of the Games.

In this project, the dataset was used as-is without any cleaning. The analysis was based on the raw dataset to reflect the original Olympic records and preserve the integrity of the data.

> Entity Relationship Diagram

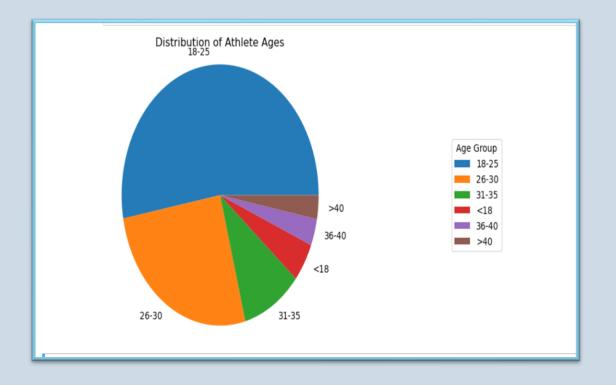


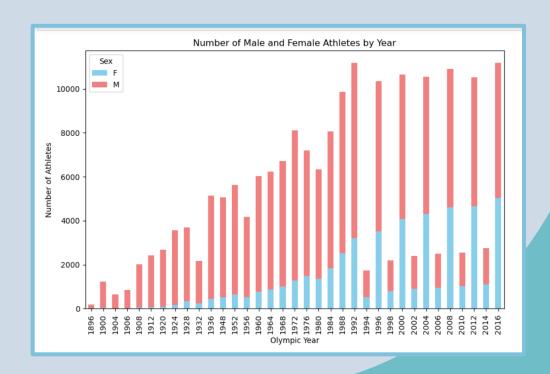
> Initial Data Exploration

The dataset was loaded using pandas and queried with pandasql. Basic functions like .info() and .describe() were used to understand the structure.

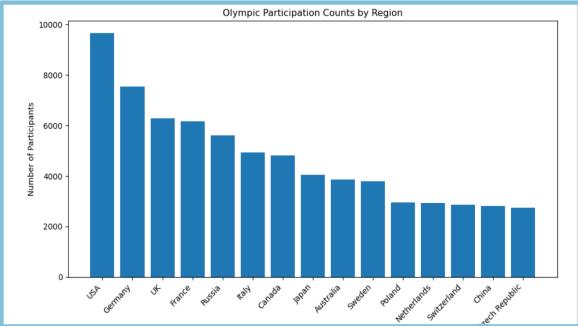
A histogram showed the number of male and female athletes over the years, while a pie chart displayed the age distribution of participants.

This gave a simple overview of the data.





Out[62]:		
_	Team	Total_Medals_in_120_
0	USA	5637
1	Russia	3947
2	Germany	3756
3	UK	2068
4	France	1777
5	Italy	1637
6	Sweden	1536
7	Canada	1352
8	Australia	1349
9	Hungary	1135
10	Netherlands	1040
11	Norway	1033



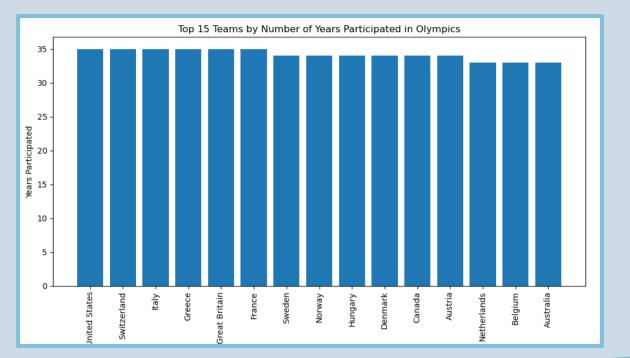
- The visual shows the total number of medals including gold, silver and bronze, won by different teams in total 120 years. Here, Unites States is leading with 5637 medals in 120 years (35 years of Olympics) followed by teams Russia, Germany, UK and others.
- The histogram shows number of participants from different teams who participated in 35 years of Olympics. US has highest number of participants followed by Germany, UK, France and others.
 Switzerland, China have less number of participants compared to UK, US etc.

t Medal	Event	Sport	City	Season	Year	Games	NOC	Team	Weight	Height	Age	Sex	Name
	Basketball Men's Basketball	Basketball	Barcelona	Summer	1992	1992 Summer	CHN	China	80.0	180.0	24.0	М	A Dijiang
	Judo Men's Extra- Lightweight	Judo	London	Summer	2012	2012 Summer	CHN	China	60.0	170.0	23.0	М	A Lamusi
II None	Football Men's Football	Football	Antwerpen	Summer	1920	1920 Summer	DEN	Denmark	NaN	NaN	24.0	М	Gunnar Nielsen Aaby
	Tug-Of-War Men's Tug- Of-War	Tug-Of-War	Paris	Summer	1900	1900 Summer	DEN	Denmark/Sweden	NaN	NaN	34.0	М	Edgar Lindenau Aabye
	Speed Skating Women's 500 metres	Speed Skating	Calgary	Winter	1988	1988 Winter	NED	Netherlands	82.0	185.0	21.0	F	Christine Jacoba Aaftink
	Speed Skating Women's 1,000 metres	Speed Skating	Calgary	Winter	1988	1988 Winter	NED	Netherlands	82.0	185.0	21.0	F	Christine Jacoba Aaftink
	Speed Skating Women's 500 metres	Speed Skating	Albertville	Winter	1992	1992 Winter	NED	Netherlands	82.0	185.0	25.0	F	Christine Jacoba Aaftink
	Speed Skating Women's 1,000 metres	Speed Skating	Albertville	Winter	1992	1992 Winter	NED	Netherlands	82.0	185.0	25.0	F	Christine Jacoba Aaftink
	Speed Skating Women's 500 metres	Speed Skating	Lillehammer	Winter	1994	1994 Winter	NED	Netherlands	82.0	185.0	27.0	F	Christine Jacoba Aaftink

Columns: ['ID', 'Name', 'Sex', 'Age', 'Height', 'Weight'
'City', 'Sport', 'Event', 'Medal']

6]:

	ID	Age	Height	Weight
count	271116.000000	261642.000000	210945.000000	208241.000000
mean	68248.954396	25.556898	175.338970	70.702393
std	39022.286345	6.393561	10.518462	14.348020
min	1.000000	10.000000	127.000000	25.000000
25%	34643.000000	21.000000	168.000000	60.000000
50%	68205.000000	24.000000	175.000000	70.000000
75%	102097.250000	28.000000	183.000000	79.000000
max	135571.000000	97.000000	226.000000	214.000000



Questions

- 1. How has the ratio of male and female participants changed over the years?
- 2. What is the relationship between height of participants and the sport they play?
- 3. How does the age of an athlete affect his/her performance in the competitions?
- 4. Is the performance of a nation in the Summer Olympics correlated to that in the Winter Olympics?
- 5. Do certain sports have a higher proportion of young or older medalists?

Hypothesis

- 1. The ratio of female to male participants in the Olympics has steadily increased over time.
- 2. There is a relationship between an athlete's height and the sport they participate in, suggesting that certain sports tend to attract athletes with specific physical characteristics
- 3. Athletes performance declines with age. Athletes physical strength and agility generally decreases as they grow older.
- 4. A nation's performance in the Summer Olympics is correlated with its performance in the Winter Olympics.
- 5. There is a variation in the age of medalists across different sports, indicating that some sports are dominated by younger athletes while others see greater success among older participants.

> Approach

- Depending on the question, the data can then be grouped or aggregated using columns such as Year, Sport, or NOC.
- Specific filters can be applied, such as including only medal winners or focusing on a particular Olympic season.
- Calculations like average age, participant count, or total medals are then performed to uncover trends.
- Finally, the results are visualized using charts such as bar plots, pie charts, or line graphs to better interpret the findings.
- The key columns to look for the analysis include Year, Sex, Age, Height, Sport, Medal, Season, and NOC.

> Final Findings

Question 1:

Visualizing male-to-female participation ratio across
Olympic years using a histogram. The male-to-female athlete ratio decreases generally over the years. Female participation has consistently grown, reducing the historical gender gap.

Hypothesis disproved.

Question 2:

The sport an athlete plays is strongly associated with their height. For example, tall athletes dominate sports like basketball or volleyball, while shorter athletes are more common in sports like gymnastics.

Hypothesis proven.

Question 3:

The Pearson correlation
between age and
performance was nearly
zero, showing no meaningful
relationship, suggesting that
age alone does not predict
Olympic success. Other
factors like sport and
training also matter.

Hypothesis disproved.

Question 4:

There is a strong positive correlation ($r \approx 0.69$). This means that countries that perform well in the Summer Games are also likely to perform well in the Winter Games. Strong nations often win in both Summer and Winter Olympics.

Hypothesis proven.

Question 5:

Age of medalists varies significantly across different sports. Some sports, such as gymnastics and swimming, tend to favor younger athletes, while others, like equestrian events and shooting, see greater success among older and experienced participants.

Hypothesis proven.

Conclusion

- Over the 120 years of Olympic history, our analysis shows how participation and performance have evolved. Female participation has steadily increased, reducing the gender gap and making the Games more inclusive.
- While age alone does not strongly determine performance, we found that different sports favor athletes at different stages of life – with some better suited for younger competitors and others for older, more experienced ones.
- Height also plays a key role in shaping which sports athletes succeed in. Finally, nations that perform strongly in the Summer Olympics often show similar strength in the Winter Games, highlighting the importance of sporting resources and systems.
- Together, these insights reveal how the Olympics are shaped by a mix of age, gender, physical attributes, and national investment in sports.

