

GLOBAL TRANSFER MARKET REPORT 2018

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

A REVIEW OF ALL INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL
TRANSFERS IN 2018





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I IF THERE WERE ONLY 100 INTERNATIONAL TRANSFERS I

TRANSFER TYPE

Out of contract (89)



On loan (07)



Permanent¹ (03)

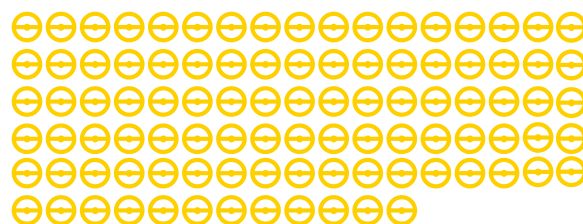


Return from loan (01)



TRANSFER FEES

No transfer fees (97)



< USD 25,000 (02)



> USD 25,000 (01)



CONFEDERATIONS

Across confederations (46)



Within UEFA (40)



Within CONMEBOL (12)



Within AFC (02)



Within CAF (<1)



Within CONCACAF (<1)



Within OFC (00)

PLAYER AGE

< 18 years old (00)

18-23 years old (42)



24-29 years old (49)



30-35 years old (09)



≥ 35 years old (<1)



PLAYER'S NEW CONTRACT

≤ 6 months (33)



6-12 months (48)



12-24 months (15)



24-48 months (03)



> 48 months (00)

PLAYER INTERMEDIARIES

Transfers with player intermediary (24)



Transfers without player intermediary (76)





ITMS

INTRODUCTION

I WHAT IS ITMS? I

The International Transfer Matching System (ITMS) is a mandatory platform designed for FIFA member associations and their affiliated professional football clubs to conduct international¹ transfers of players. ITMS is one of the services that FIFA offers as part of the TMS infrastructure, which serves the objective to ensure that football's authorities have more details on each international transfer available to them, and, to increase the transparency of the individual transactions in order to improve the credibility and standing of the entire transfer system.

In 2005, the FIFA task force "For the Good of the Game" was established to determine, among other things, how the international transfer market should be transformed with a particular focus on the protection of minor players. Their recommendation to create a web-based transfer matching system was ratified by the 57th FIFA congress in 2007. Two years later, the minors module designed to assist in safeguarding the international transfer of

minor players was complete and ready to use. Since then, all applications for international transfers of minors as well as for first registrations of non-national minors are processed through TMS.

In a one-year transition period starting in October 2009, clubs and associations were free to use the system to process their international transfers of professional male players in order to familiarize themselves with the system before it finally became mandatory in 2010. Ever since 1 October 2010, all international transfers of professional male players of eleven-a-side football must be processed through TMS.

Since then, TMS has continued to grow every year with several important additions. The most recent major advancement of TMS happened in 2018. Since 1 January 2018, the use of TMS has been also mandatory for all international transfers of professional female players within the scope of eleven-a-side football.

Today, TMS has become an integral part of the world of transfers in football. Having the ITMS framework and structures in place at this early stage in the development of the professional women's game means FIFA will be able to monitor this growth closely and to support it step by step.

This report is a summary of all international transfers of female professional players completed in ITMS during 2018. The objective is to outline the recent trends observed around the world and explain the different aspects of the international transfer market. FIFA is working every day on making the transfer market as transparent as possible, and publications such as this are designed to obtain said objective while remaining in observance of the relevant data protection regulations.

¹Between clubs of two different associations

I GLOSSARY I

Clubs

A member of an association (that is a member association of FIFA) or a member of a league recognised by a member association that enters at least one team in a competition.

Confederation

A group of associations recognised by FIFA that belong to the same continent (or assimilable geographical region). Confederations are the umbrella organisations of the member associations in each continent:

- AFC – Asian Football Confederation
- CAF – Confédération Africaine de Football (Africa)
- CONCACAF – Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football
- CONMEBOL – Confederación Sudamericana de Fútbol (South America)
- OFC – Oceania Football Confederation
- UEFA – Union des Associations Européennes de Football (Europe).

ITC

International Transfer Certificate: The official document that allows the international transfer of the player's registration from one association to another (cf. art. 9 RSTP).

ITMS

International Transfer Matching System: A web-based data information system with the primary objective of simplifying the process of international player transfers as well as improving transparency and the flow of information.

Loan

The type of transfer conducted when a professional player is temporarily engaged by a new club on the basis of a loan agreement during the term of his employment contract with the former club.

Loan extension

The instruction type entered when the loan is being extended by the new club (where the player is currently on loan) for an additional period of time, with the agreement of the former club and the player.

Loan to permanent

The instruction type entered when the new club (where the player is currently on loan) wishes to engage the player permanently, with the agreement of the former club.

Member association

A football association recognised as such by FIFA. A total of 211 member associations are currently affiliated to FIFA.

Out of contract (transfer)

The type of transfer conducted when a player signs for a new club when he is not contractually bound to any former club and no transfer agreement exists. There are four possible reasons for the player's previous contract termination: The contract with the former club has expired. The contract with the former club was terminated unilaterally. The player mutually agreed an early termination with his former club. The player was not under contract with his former club, i.e. he was an amateur. This type of transfer is also referred to as Permanent transfer without transfer agreement, but FIFA TMS reports

use the term Out of contract in order to facilitate the distinction with Permanent transfer with transfer agreement.

Permanent transfer (with transfer agreement)

The type of transfer conducted when a player is permanently engaged by a new club and a transfer agreement is signed by the new club and the former club.

Professional player

A player who has a written contract with a club and is paid more for his football activity than the expenses he effectively incurs (cf. RSTP art. 2 par. 2).

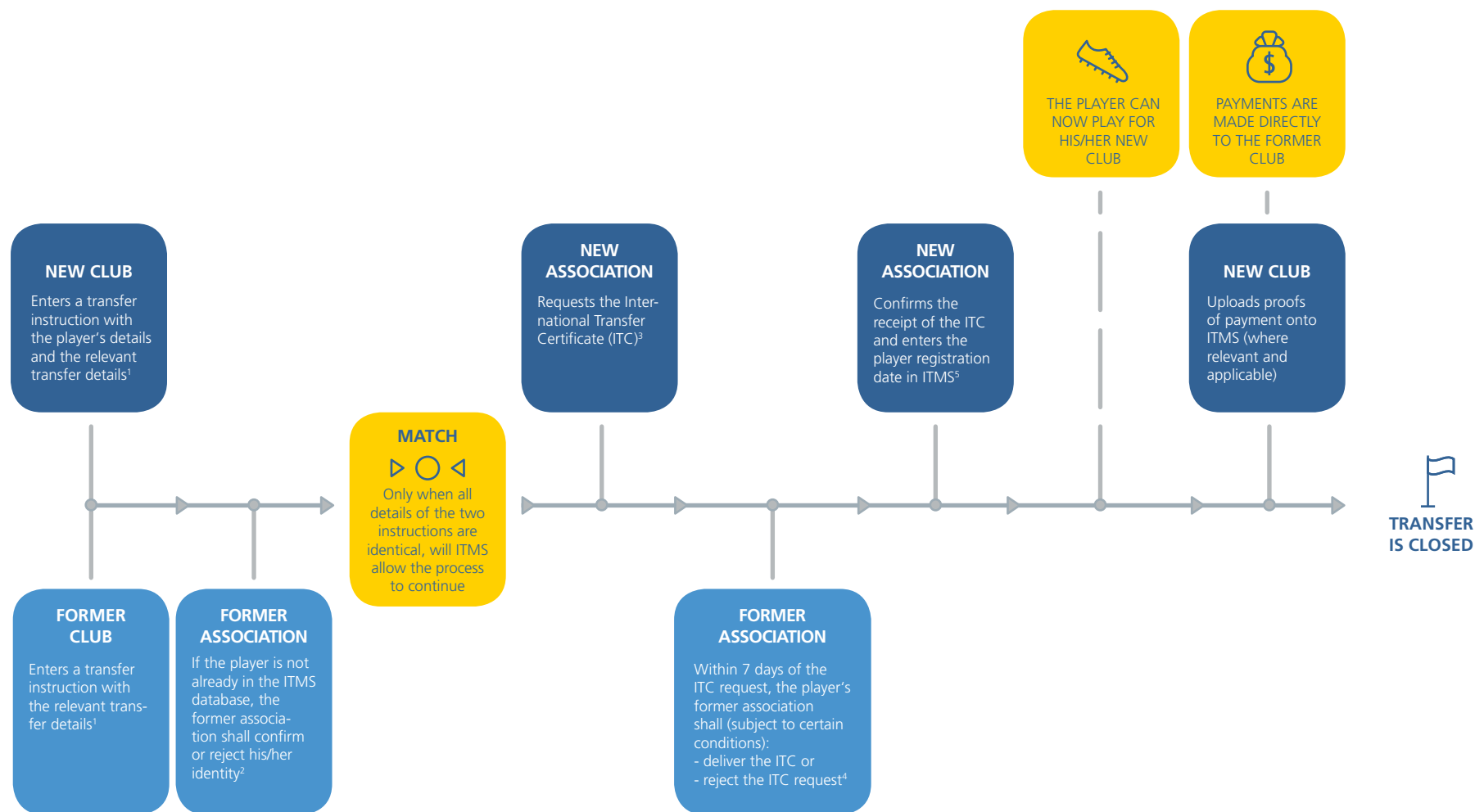
Return from loan

The instruction type entered when a player who was loaned to another club returns to his club of origin after termination of the loan.

RSTP

Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players: global and binding rules concerning the status of players, their eligibility to participate in organised football, and their transfer between clubs belonging to different associations.

Fig. 1: Example of an international permanent transfer with a transfer agreement



Disclaimer:

The above illustration is for information purposes only and is not an exhaustive description of either the transfer process or the steps to be followed in a particular transfer. The illustration is not to be relied upon when processing a transfer. Each particular transfer is subject to and must be completed in accordance with the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (RSTP)

¹ See FIFA RSTP Annexe 3, art. 4, par. 2 and Annexe 3, art. 8.2, par. 1

² See FIFA RSTP Annexe 3, art. 5.2, par. 1

³ See FIFA RSTP Annexe 3, art. 5.2, par. 2; Annexe 3, art. 8.1, par. 2 and Annexe 3, art. 8.2, par. 2

⁴ See FIFA RSTP Annexe 3, art. 8.2, par. 3, 4 and 7

⁵ See FIFA RSTP Annexe 3, art. 8.2, par. 5

I 2018 IN THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER MATCHING SYSTEM I

Number of transfers

In 2018, a total of 696 international transfers of female professional players were completed around the world. These transfers involved 614 players of 72 different nationalities.

Types of transfers

Transfers out of contract represented by far the most common type of transfer in 2018, accounting for 88.9% of all international transfers. This high share is directly linked to the increasing professionalization of women's football. As ITMS is only used by professional clubs, each international transfer of a player who previously played as an amateur

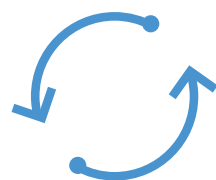
and signs her first professional contract with a new club is processed as an out of contract¹ transfer. Out of the 619 transfers out of contract completed in 2018, this was the case in 266 transfers. With more and more women becoming professional football players, the share of out of contract transfers will remain high. In the long run however, the increased number of professional players should in turn lead to an increase both in the number of permanent² transfers and in the number of loans. In fact, the share of loans has been growing: when the first report on women's transfers in ITMS was published in September 2018, loans represented a share of 1.6% of all international transfers. This has now grown to 6.9% for the entire year.

This will likely also lead to an increase in the share of transfers of players returning from loans once these loans come to an end. In fact, as the use of ITMS became mandatory for the movement of professional female players only in January 2018, many loans have not yet reached their conclusion.

Timing of transfers

As can be seen from figure 4, international transfers of female players occurred throughout the whole year of 2018. There were however two strong peaks of activity: one during the first three months of the year and a second between July and August.

Fig. 2: Total number of international transfers (2018)



696

**international
transfers in 2018**

Fig. 3: International transfers by type (2018)

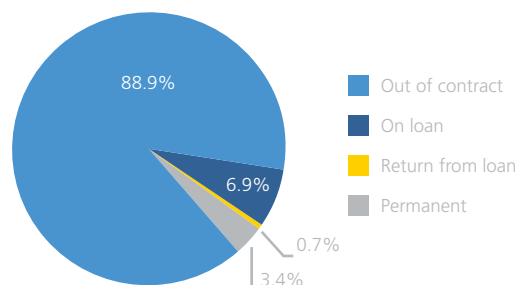
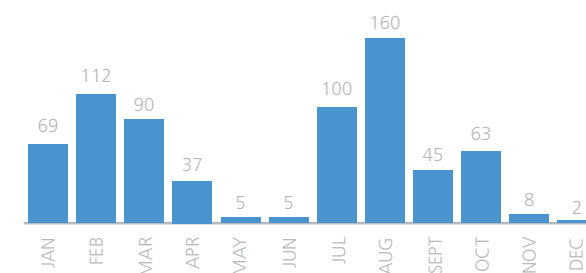


Fig. 4: International transfers by month (2018)



¹Transfers of players out of contract also occur when the previous contract has expired or has been terminated. Refer to the glossary for a detailed definition.

²An international permanent transfer with a transfer agreement between the two clubs

Number of clubs and associations

In 2018, 74 of the 211 FIFA member associations were actively involved in international transfers of female professional players, meaning they either engaged or released at least one player from or to a club in another association. These transfers involved a total of 220 clubs.

Fig. 5: Number of member associations and clubs involved in international transfers (2018)



Spending on transfer fees

Total spending on fees for international transfers of female players amounted to USD 564,354 in 2018. The vast majority of transfers did not include a transfer fee, and all spending came from only 3.2% of the transfers. In contrast to common misconceptions, this percentage is also relatively low in the professional men's transfer market (only 15.1% over the same period).

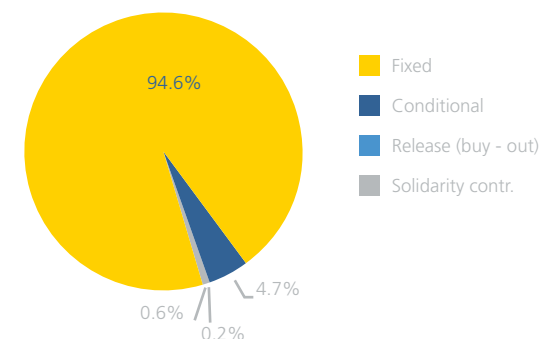
Fig. 6: Spending on transfer fees (2018)



Types of transfer fees

Of the total amount spent on transfer fees during the course of the year, 94.6% were fixed fees. The remainder were conditional fees (4.7%), release (buy-out) fees (0.2%) and solidarity contribution (0.6%).

Fig. 7: Spending on transfer fees by type of fee (2018)



A photograph of four Mexican women's soccer players in green and white uniforms celebrating on a field. The player in the center has the number 10 on her jersey. They are all smiling and running. The background shows a stadium with spectators and a red banner with the text 'LIVE YOUR GOALS'.

01

VOLUME AND VALUE OF TRANSFERS

I CONFEDERATIONS I

As mentioned in the introduction, a total of 696 international transfers were completed during 2018. UEFA was the confederation where most of the transfer activity occurred. In fact, 153 of the 220 clubs involved in transfers globally were European. 64.9% of the transfers worldwide were to a UEFA club and 46.1% of them were from a UEFA club. CONMEBOL was the confederation with the highest share of actively involved member associations, with nine out of its ten members involved in at least one transfer. The OFC was the only confederation with no club completing transfers in ITMS, despite one of its associations (New Zealand)

Fig. 8: Number of incoming and outgoing transfers and involved associations and clubs by confederation (2018)

	Incoming transfers	Outgoing transfers	Associations involved	Clubs involved
AFC	80	71	6 of 46	25
CAF	1	24	12 of 54	2
CONCACAF	64	134	7 of 35	10
CONMEBOL	99	144	9 of 10	30
OFC	0	2	1 of 11	0
UEFA	452	321	39 of 55	153
TOTAL	696	696	74 of 211	220

being involved in 2 transfers. This occurs because in ITMS, in the context of a transfer of a player out of contract, the former club is not involved in the transfers¹, but the former member association is active in the exchange of the International Transfer Certificate (ITC).

Figure 9 shows the distribution of the types of incoming transfers for each confederation. Transfers out of contract were the most common type of incoming transfer in all confederations. In CAF and CONMEBOL, the share of incoming transfers out of contract is in fact at 100%. However, clubs in AFC relied much more heavily than anyone

else on loaning players from abroad: 37 of the 80 incoming transfers to Asian clubs were of players coming to the clubs on loan. This corresponds to 46.3%. In contrast, this rate is below 4% in all other confederations. As shown in figure 10, in CONMEBOL and UEFA the majority of international transfers occurred between clubs of the same confederations. This is not the case in any of the other confederations: in CAF, CONCACAF and OFC most outgoing transfers were to UEFA clubs, and in the AFC more than half of the transfers were to clubs of CONCACAF.

Fig. 9: Distribution of transfer types by engaging confederation (2018)

	Out of contract	Permanent	On loan	Return from loan
AFC	50.0%	1.3%	46.3%	2.5%
CAF	100%	0%	0%	0%
CONCACAF	95.3%	1.6%	3.1%	0%
CONMEBOL	100%	0%	0%	0%
OFC	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UEFA	92.5%	4.9%	2.0%	0.7%
WORLDWIDE	88.9%	3.4%	6.9%	0.7%

Fig. 10: Number of international transfers within and between confederations (2018)

Transfers		Engaging					
		AFC	CAF	CONCACAF	CONMEBOL	OFC	UEFA
Releasing	AFC	11	0	38	2	0	20
	CAF	2	1	2	0	0	19
	CONCACAF	44	0	2	8	0	80
	CONMEBOL	7	0	2	82	0	53
	OFC	0	0	0	0	0	2
	UEFA	16	0	20	7	0	278

I ASSOCIATIONS I

Among the 211 FIFA member associations, 74 were involved in transfers of female professional players in 2018. Spain had the largest number of clubs (21) actively participating. The second most active were clubs from Colombia (17), followed by Sweden and England with 16 (cf. figure 12).

Spain and Colombia are also the two associations with the most incoming international transfers. Both associations had 69 incoming transfers from other associations in 2018. Third are the USA, who closely follow with 63 incoming transfers (cf. figure 13).

In terms of the number of outgoing international transfers, the USA exceeds all other associations. American clubs released a total of 119 players to clubs around the world. The second largest number of outgoing transfers came from Australia (49) and the third from Sweden (41) (cf. figure 14).

As shown in figure 11, the most common transfer stream in 2018 was in fact that of players moving from the USA to Australia (42 transfers), and the second most common was players taking the opposite route from Australia to the USA (38 transfers).

Interestingly, the next two most frequent transfer streams are also between the same two countries: there were a total of 33 transfers from Venezuela to Colombia and 21 in the opposite direction. As explained in the previous report on transfers of female professional players in ITMS², it appears that one of the main drivers of market activity is the fact that many players take part in more than one competition in the same year. This practice is not uncommon in women's football and is arguably facilitated by the shorter football seasons. For instance, the Australian W-League runs from late October to early February while the US National Women's Soccer League starts late in March and ends in September. This makes it possible to participate in the season of both leagues by moving back and forth between them. 24 players did exactly that, i.e. they moved from Australia to the USA early in the year and moved back to Australia after the end of the US season.

Similarly, many of the transfers between Colombia and Venezuela were Venezuelan players who were engaged by Colombian clubs at the beginning of the year, right before the start of the Liga Femenina Pro-

fesional de Fútbol Colombiano, and signed contracts until the summer. Once the league ended, these players moved back to Venezuela out of contract, in time for the start of the Torneo de Clausura of the Venezuelan Superliga femenina de fútbol.

Fig. 11: Top 15 transfer streams by number of transfers (2018)

Top 15 transfer streams		
From	To	Transfers
USA	Australia	42
Australia	USA	38
Venezuela	Colombia	33
Colombia	Venezuela	21
USA	Sweden	11
Brazil	Spain	9
Colombia	Spain	9
USA	France	9
USA	Norway	9
Germany	England	8
Switzerland	Germany	8
Brazil	China PR	7
Paraguay	Colombia	7
USA	Spain	7
Austria	Germany	6



Fig. 12: Number of clubs involved in international transfers by association, global rank in parentheses (2018)

AFC	25	AFC	25	CAF	2	CAF	2	CONCACAF	10
Australia (8)	9	Qatar	0	Eritrea	0	Uganda	0	St. Kitts and Nevis	0
China PR (11)	8	Saudi Arabia	0	Ethiopia	0	Zambia	0	St. Lucia	0
Japan (15)	6	Singapore	0	Gabon	0	Zimbabwe	0	St. Vincent	0
Korea Republic (26)	2	Sri Lanka	0	Gambia	0			Suriname	0
Afghanistan	0	Syria	0	Ghana	0	CONCACAF	10	Trinidad and Tobago	0
Bahrain	0	Tajikistan	0	Guinea	0	USA (8)	9	Turks and Caicos Isl.	0
Bangladesh	0	Thailand	0	Guinea-Bissau	0	Mexico (28)	1	US Virgin Islands	0
Bhutan	0	Timor-Leste	0	Kenya	0	Anguilla	0		
Brunei Darussalam	0	Turkmenistan	0	Lesotho	0	Antigua and Barbuda	0	CONMEBOL	30
Cambodia	0	United Arab Emirates	0	Liberia	0	Aruba	0	Colombia (2)	17
Chinese Taipei	0	Uzbekistan	0	Libya	0	Bahamas	0	Venezuela (8)	9
Guam	0	Vietnam	0	Madagascar	0	Barbados	0	Brazil (21)	3
Hong Kong	0	Yemen	0	Malawi	0	Belize	0	Bolivia (28)	1
India	0			Mali	0	Bermuda	0	Argentina	0
Indonesia	0	CAF	2	Mauritania	0	British Virgin Islands	0	Chile	0
Iran	0	Djibouti (28)	1	Mauritius	0	Canada	0	Ecuador	0
Iraq	0	Nigeria (28)	1	Morocco	0	Cayman Islands	0	Paraguay	0
Jordan	0	Algeria	0	Mozambique	0	Costa Rica	0	Peru	0
Korea DPR	0	Angola	0	Namibia	0	Cuba	0	Uruguay	0
Kuwait	0	Benin	0	Niger	0	Curaçao	0		
Kyrgyz Republic	0	Botswana	0	Rwanda	0	Dominica	0	OFC	0
Laos	0	Burkina Faso	0	São Tomé e Príncipe (32)	0	Dominican Republic	0	American Samoa	0
Lebanon	0	Burundi	0	Senegal (32)	0	El Salvador	0	Cook Islands	0
Macau	0	Cameroon	0	Seychelles	0	Grenada	0	Fiji	0
Malaysia	0	Cape Verde Islands	0	Sierra Leone	0	Guatemala	0	New Caledonia	0
Maldives	0	Central African Republic	0	Somalia	0	Guyana	0	New Zealand	0
Mongolia	0	Chad	0	South Africa	0	Haiti	0	Papua New Guinea	0
Myanmar	0	Comoros	0	South Sudan	0	Honduras	0	Samoa	0
Nepal	0	Congo	0	Sudan	0	Jamaica	0	Solomon Islands	0
Oman	0	Congo DR	0	Swaziland	0	Montserrat	0	Tahiti	0
Pakistan	0	Côte d'Ivoire	0	Tanzania	0	Nicaragua	0	Tonga	0
Palestine	0	Egypt	0	Togo	0	Panama	0	Vanuatu	0
Philippines	0	Equatorial Guinea	0	Tunisia	0	Puerto Rico	0		

UEFA	153	UEFA	153
Spain (1)	21	Faroe Islands	0
England (3)	16	FYR Macedonia	0
Sweden (3)	16	Georgia	0
Germany (5)	15	Gibraltar	0
France (6)	11	Greece	0
Norway (7)	10	Italy	0
Iceland (12)	7	Kosovo	0
Israel (12)	7	Latvia	0
Poland (12)	7	Liechtenstein	0
Finland (16)	5	Luxembourg	0
Hungary (16)	5	Malta	0
Belarus (18)	4	Moldova	0
Cyprus (18)	4	Montenegro	0
Ukraine (18)	4	Netherlands	0
Czech Republic (21)	3	Northern Ireland	0
Denmark (21)	3	Republic of Ireland	0
Portugal (21)	3	San Marino	0
Russia (21)	3	Serbia	0
Kazakhstan (26)	2	Slovakia	0
Austria (28)	1	Slovenia	0
Belgium (28)	1	Turkey	0
Bosnia and Herzegovina (28)	1	Wales	0
Lithuania (28)	1		
Romania (28)	1		
Scotland (28)	1		
Switzerland (28)	1		
Albania	0		
Andorra	0		
Armenia	0		
Azerbaijan	0		
Bulgaria	0		
Croatia	0		
Estonia	0		

Fig. 13: Number of incoming international transfers by association, global rank in parentheses (2018)

AFC	80	AFC	80	CAF	1	CAF	1	CONCACAF	64
Australia (4)	54	Qatar	0	Ethiopia	0	Uganda	0	St. Kitts and Nevis	0
China PR (13)	15	Saudi Arabia	0	Gabon	0	Zambia	0	St. Lucia	0
Japan (23)	7	Singapore	0	Gambia	0	Zimbabwe	0	St. Vincent	0
Korea Republic (27)	4	Sri Lanka	0	Ghana	0			Suriname	0
Afghanistan	0	Syria	0	Guinea	0	CONCACAF	64	Trinidad and Tobago	0
Bahrain	0	Tajikistan	0	Guinea-Bissau	0	USA (3)	63	Turks and Caicos Islands	0
Bangladesh	0	Thailand	0	Kenya	0	Mexico (32)	1	US Virgin Islands	0
Bhutan	0	Timor-Leste	0	Lesotho	0	Anguilla	0		
Brunei Darussalam	0	Turkmenistan	0	Liberia	0	Antigua and Barbuda	0	CONMEBOL	99
Cambodia	0	United Arab Emirates	0	Libya	0	Aruba	0	Colombia (1)	69
Chinese Taipei	0	Uzbekistan	0	Madagascar	0	Bahamas	0	Venezuela (11)	25
Guam	0	Vietnam	0	Malawi	0	Barbados	0	Brazil (28)	3
Hong Kong	0	Yemen	0	Mali	0	Belize	0	Bolivia (31)	2
India	0			Mauritania	0	Bermuda	0	Argentina	0
Indonesia	0	CAF	1	Mauritius	0	British Virgin Islands	0	Chile	0
Iran	0	Djibouti (32)	1	Morocco	0	Canada	0	Ecuador	0
Iraq	0	Algeria	0	Mozambique	0	Cayman Islands	0	Paraguay	0
Jordan	0	Angola	0	Namibia	0	Costa Rica	0	Peru	0
Korea DPR	0	Benin	0	Niger	0	Cuba	0	Uruguay	0
Kuwait	0	Botswana	0	Nigeria	0	Curaçao	0		
Kyrgyz Republic	0	Burkina Faso	0	Rwanda	0	Dominica	0	OFC	0
Laos	0	Burundi	0	São Tomé e Príncipe	0	Dominican Republic	0	American Samoa	0
Lebanon	0	Cameroon	0	Senegal	0	El Salvador	0	Cook Islands	0
Macau	0	Cape Verde Islands	0	Seychelles	0	Grenada	0	Fiji	0
Malaysia	0	Central African Republic	0	Sierra Leone	0	Guatemala	0	New Caledonia	0
Maldives	0	Chad	0	Somalia	0	Guyana	0	New Zealand	0
Mongolia	0	Comoros	0	South Africa	0	Haiti	0	Papua New Guinea	0
Myanmar	0	Congo	0	South Sudan	0	Honduras	0	Samoa	0
Nepal	0	Congo DR	0	Sudan	0	Jamaica	0	Solomon Islands	0
Oman	0	Côte d'Ivoire	0	Swaziland	0	Montserrat	0	Tahiti	0
Pakistan	0	Egypt	0	Tanzania	0	Nicaragua	0	Tonga	0
Palestine	0	Equatorial Guinea	0	Togo	0	Panama	0	Vanuatu	0
Philippines	0	Eritrea	0	Tunisia	0	Puerto Rico	0		

UEFA	452	UEFA	452
Spain (1)	69	FYR Macedonia	0
Sweden (5)	52	Georgia	0
Norway (6)	42	Gibraltar	0
England (7)	41	Greece	0
Germany (8)	38	Italy	0
France (9)	34	Kosovo	0
Israel (10)	30	Latvia	0
Portugal (12)	20	Liechtenstein	0
Iceland (13)	15	Lithuania	0
Hungary (15)	13	Luxembourg	0
Cyprus (16)	12	Malta	0
Ukraine (16)	12	Moldova	0
Belarus (18)	11	Montenegro	0
Poland (18)	11	Netherlands	0
Czech Republic (20)	9	Northern Ireland	0
Finland (20)	9	Republic of Ireland	0
Kazakhstan (20)	9	San Marino	0
Denmark (24)	6	Serbia	0
Russia (24)	6	Slovakia	0
Belgium (26)	5	Slovenia	0
Scotland (28)	3	Turkey	0
Switzerland (28)	3	Wales	0
Austria (32)	1		
Romania (32)	1		
Albania	0		
Andorra	0		
Armenia	0		
Azerbaijan	0		
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0		
Bulgaria	0		
Croatia	0		
Estonia	0		
Faroe Islands	0		

Fig. 14: Number of outgoing international transfers by association, global rank in parentheses (2018)

AFC	71	AFC	71	CAF	24	CAF	24	CONCACAF	134
Australia (2)	49	Philippines	0	Central African Republic	0	Tunisia	0	St. Kitts and Nevis	0
Japan (16)	10	Qatar	0	Chad	0	Uganda	0	St. Lucia	0
China PR (25)	6	Saudi Arabia	0	Comoros	0	Zimbabwe	0	St. Vincent	0
Korea Republic (35)	4	Singapore	0	Congo	0			Suriname	0
India (58)	1	Sri Lanka	0	Congo DR	0	CONCACAF	134	Trinidad and Tobago	0
United Arab Emirates (58)	1	Syria	0	Djibouti	0	USA (1)	119	Turks and Caicos Islands	0
Afghanistan	0	Tajikistan	0	Egypt	0	Canada (21)	7	US Virgin Islands	0
Bahrain	0	Thailand	0	Equatorial Guinea	0	Costa Rica (30)	5		
Bangladesh	0	Timor-Leste	0	Eritrea	0	Guatemala (58)	1	CONMEBOL	144
Bhutan	0	Turkmenistan	0	Ethiopia	0	Jamaica (58)	1	Brazil (4)	40
Brunei Darussalam	0	Uzbekistan	0	Gabon	0	Panama (58)	1	Colombia (5)	35
Cambodia	0	Vietnam	0	Guinea	0	Anguilla	0	Venezuela (5)	35
Chinese Taipei	0	Yemen	0	Guinea-Bissau	0	Antigua and Barbuda	0	Chile (16)	10
Guam	0			Lesotho	0	Aruba	0	Paraguay (16)	10
Hong Kong	0	CAF	24	Liberia	0	Bahamas	0	Ecuador (21)	7
Indonesia	0	Nigeria (30)	5	Libya	0	Barbados	0	Argentina (25)	6
Iran	0	South Africa (30)	5	Madagascar	0	Belize	0	Uruguay (58)	1
Iraq	0	Ghana (44)	3	Mauritania	0	Bermuda	0	Bolivia	0
Jordan	0	Cameroon (52)	2	Mauritius	0	British Virgin Islands	0	Peru	0
Korea DPR	0	Côte d'Ivoire (52)	2	Mozambique	0	Cayman Islands	0		
Kuwait	0	Morocco (52)	2	Namibia	0	Cuba	0	OFC	2
Kyrgyz Republic	0	Gambia (58)	1	Niger	0	Curaçao	0	New Zealand (52)	2
Laos	0	Kenya (58)	1	Rwanda	0	Dominica	0	American Samoa	0
Lebanon	0	Malawi (58)	1	São Tomé e Príncipe	0	Dominican Republic	0	Cook Islands	0
Macau	0	Mali (58)	1	Senegal	0	El Salvador	0	Fiji	0
Malaysia	0	Zambia (58)	1	Seychelles	0	Grenada	0	New Caledonia	0
Maldives	0	Algeria	0	Sierra Leone	0	Guyana	0	Papua New Guinea	0
Mongolia	0	Angola	0	Somalia	0	Haiti	0	Samoa	0
Myanmar	0	Benin	0	South Sudan	0	Honduras	0	Solomon Islands	0
Nepal	0	Botswana	0	Sudan	0	Mexico	0	Tahiti	0
Oman	0	Burkina Faso	0	Swaziland	0	Montserrat	0	Tonga	0
Pakistan	0	Burundi	0	Tanzania	0	Nicaragua	0	Vanuatu	0
Palestine	0	Cape Verde Islands	0	Togo	0	Puerto Rico	0		

UEFA	321	UEFA	321
Sweden (3)	41	Republic of Ireland (44)	3
Germany (7)	27	Kazakhstan (52)	2
Norway (8)	21	Serbia (52)	2
France (9)	20	Croatia (58)	1
Iceland (10)	17	Moldova (58)	1
Switzerland (10)	17	Slovenia (58)	1
Spain (12)	16	Albania	0
Italy (13)	15	Andorra	0
England (14)	14	Bulgaria	0
Netherlands (15)	13	Estonia	0
Denmark (16)	10	Faroe Islands	0
Ukraine (20)	8	FYR Macedonia	0
Austria (21)	7	Gibraltar	0
Scotland (21)	7	Kosovo	0
Cyprus (25)	6	Latvia	0
Lithuania (25)	6	Liechtenstein	0
Russia (25)	6	Luxembourg	0
Belarus (30)	5	Malta	0
Finland (30)	5	Montenegro	0
Armenia (35)	4	Northern Ireland	0
Azerbaijan (35)	4	San Marino	0
Bosnia-Herzegovina (35)	4	Wales	0
Czech Republic (35)	4		
Poland (35)	4		
Romania (35)	4		
Slovakia (35)	4		
Turkey (35)	4		
Belgium (44)	3		
Georgia (44)	3		
Greece (44)	3		
Hungary (44)	3		
Israel (44)	3		
Portugal (44)	3		

I CLUBS I

The vast majority of the 220 clubs involved in international transfers in 2018 only completed incoming transfers (82.7%). Only 2.7% of the clubs only released players and the remaining 14.5% completed both incoming and outgoing international transfers.

In 2018, clubs active on the international transfer market completed an average of 3.5 international transfers in total (incoming plus outgoing). Figure 16 shows the

distribution of the number of incoming and outgoing international transfers per club. Most clubs completed 2 to 4 incoming transfers. Only one had more than 10 incoming transfers. For 24 of the 38 clubs that released at least one player, it was the only outgoing transfer they completed. The relatively low number of clubs completing outgoing transfers is closely related to the high share of transfers out of contract, give that, as explained on page 14, they do not involve a releasing club.

Fig. 15: Number of clubs completing only incoming, only outgoing or both types of transfers (2018)

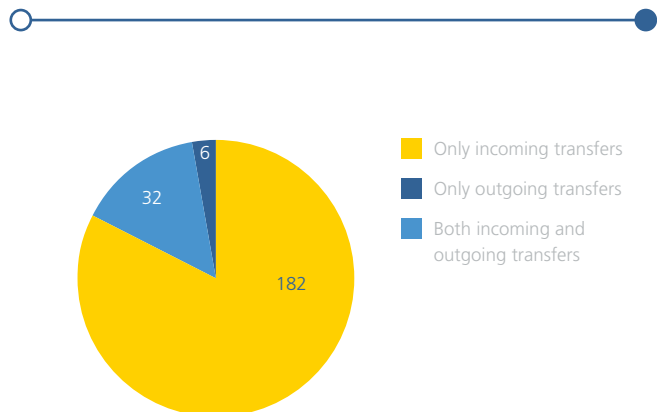
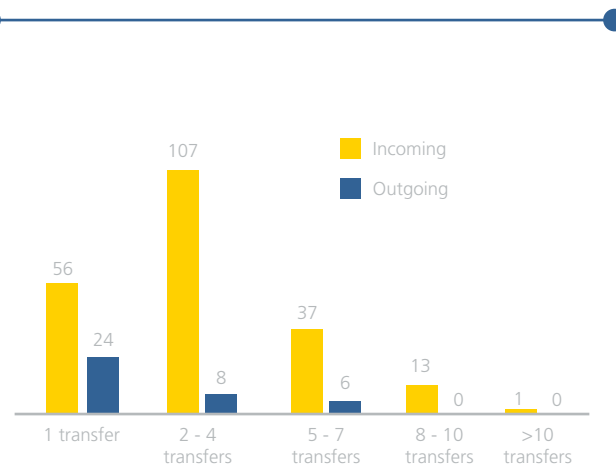


Fig. 16: Frequency distribution of incoming and outgoing international transfers per club (2018)





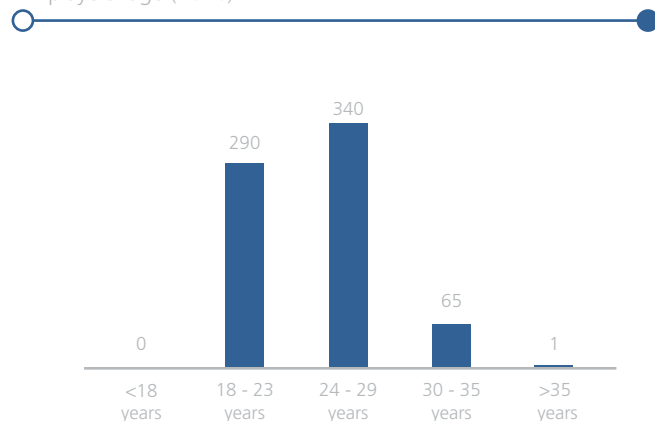
02 PLAYER CHARACTERISTICS

I PLAYER AGE I

The 696 international transfers of female players in the past year involved 614 different players representing 72 nationalities¹ from all around the world. On average, these players were 24 years and 5 months old. The youngest player was 18 and the oldest was 37 years old when they transferred.

144 players from the USA transferred internationally in 2018. This makes the USA the most internationally transferred nationality by a large margin. Second on the list are Venezuelan players with 67 international transfers, followed by Brazilian with 46.

Fig. 17: Frequency distribution of internationally transferred players' age (2018)



The top 5 nationalities in terms of the number of international transfers are from four of the six confederations (CONCACAF, CONMEBOL, AFC, and UEFA) demonstrating that the women's transfer market already has a global reach despite still being at an early stage of its development.

Contract duration

The average duration of contracts signed in the context of international transfers was 11 months. Players signed contract of 6 months or less 32.8% of the time, between 6 and 12 months 48.4% of the time, between 12 and 24 months in 15.4% of the time and of more than 24 months only 3.4% of the time. On average, professional female players tend to have shorter contracts in comparison to their male counterparts. In 2018, professional male players involved in international transfers signed a contract for an average of 27 months. As the professional women's game as a whole matures, we expect to see clubs provide contracts with a longer average duration. One FIFA mile-

stone which will contribute to this in the near future, is a fixed four-year international match calendar (WIMC). The WIMC has been set for the period 2020-2023, while previously it had been set for a reduced period. This will ultimately support clubs and leagues to make longer term plans and thus will contribute to the extension of contract durations, as well as international movements of players across confederations. The introduction of ITMS, together with the WIMC are therefore examples of important changes made within FIFA's regulatory framework which are critical to the professionalization of women's football. Certainly, such milestones reflect the ever-growing importance and investments across all football stakeholders.

Fig. 18: Top 15 most internationally transferred nationalities (2018)

Top 15 nationalities by number	
Nationality	Transfers
USA	144
Venezuelan	67
Brazilian	46
Australian	33
British	33
Canadian	16
Chilean	16
Ukrainian	16
Danish	15
Icelandic	14
Swedish	14
German	13
Dutch	13
Norwegian	13
Swiss	13





03

MINORS

I MOVEMENT OF UNDERAGE FEMALE PLAYERS I

Introduction

Article 1 of Annexe 2 of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (RSTP) requires that the International Transfer Matching System (ITMS) must also be used in the context of so-called minor applications. The term 'minor' indicates a player - female or male - who has not yet reached the age of 18, while 'application' refers to the submission of a request through ITMS by the engaging member association for one of two instances:

1. **International transfer:** a minor of any nationality who has previously been registered with a club at one association is registered with a club at a new association.

2. **First registration:** a minor who has never previously been registered with a club and is not a national of the country in which he/she wishes to be registered for the first time.

As a general rule, international transfers and first registrations of foreign players are only permitted if the player is over the age of 18. However, there are exceptions to this rule.

The first three exceptions and the so-called 5-year-rule are outlined in the FIFA RSTP¹, and can be summarised as follows:

a) the parents of the player moved to the new country for reasons not linked to football;

b) the player is aged between 16 and 18 and is moving within the territory of the EU/EEA;

c) both the player's domicile and the new club are within 50km of their common borders and the distance between the two is under 100km;

d) the player has lived continuously for at least the last five years in the country of intended first registration prior to the request.

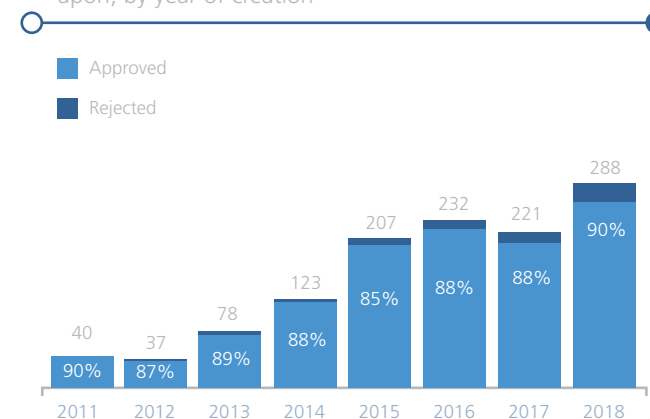
With high reservation and under very specific circumstances only, two additional exceptions are recognised by FIFA² for certain groups of minor players based on jurisprudence, and can be summarised as follows:

e) the player moving due to humanitarian reasons without his/her parents could not be ex-

pected to return to his/her country of origin ("unaccompanied refugee player");

f) the player's education was clearly the primary reason for the move without his/her parents and the duration did not exceed one year ("exchange student player").

Fig. 19: Minor applications of female players decided upon, by year of creation



¹See FIFA RSTP, art. 19, par. 2, 3 and 4 and FIFA Circular letter # 1542

²See FIFA Minor player application guide (www.fifa.com/governance/dispute-resolution-system/)

Number of minor applications

Contrary to international transfers of female professional players aged 18 and over, minor applications have been mandatory for both male and female players since 2009. It is therefore possible to investigate time trends in the development of female minor applications.

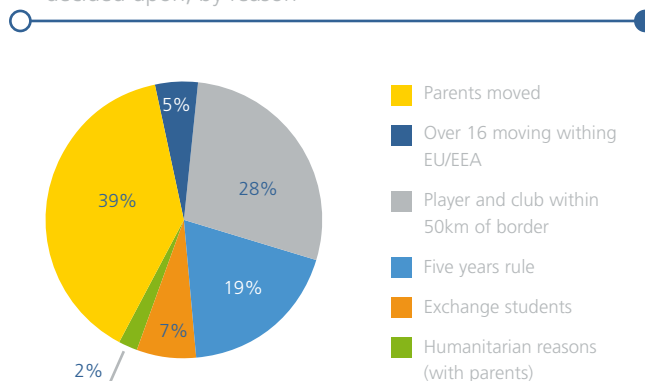
Of all female minor applications submitted in 2018, 288 have been decided upon to date, meaning they were either approved or rejected by a single judge of the FIFA Players' Status Sub-Committee. Please note that this number is subject to change, as the Sub-Committee reviews each application individually for its daily decisions, and because certain cases may require more time to decide than others. It is therefore inevitable that some applications that are submitted in a given year may be decided upon in the following year.

Reasons

46.5% of the 288 minor applications created in 2018 and decided upon were for first registrations of non-nationals and the

remaining 53.5% for international transfers of minor players. Figure 20 shows the distribution of the reasons selected by the engaging member association in the minor application in ITMS. There are seven possible reasons: five correspond to points b) c) d) e) and f) in the previous page, and two differentiate whether or not the move described in exception a) was for humanitarian reasons.

Fig. 20: Minor applications submitted in 2018 and decided upon, by reason



Player age

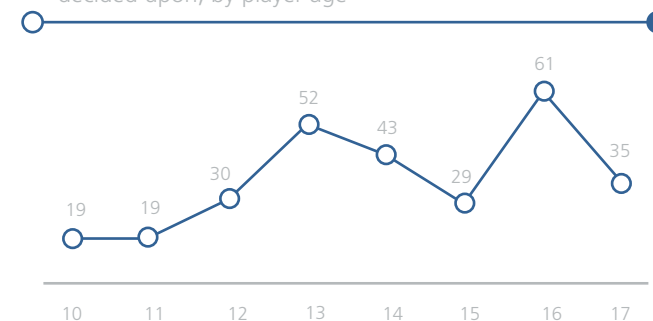
Figure 21 shows how the number of minor applications is distributed across the

different player ages. The peak for 16-year old players may be linked to the fact that, once a player turns 16, the exception in article 19, par. 2b of the FIFA RSTP can be applied, allowing minor players to move within the EU/EEA subject to certain conditions.

Player status

With just very few exceptions, almost all female minor applications in 2018 were for minors moving to play football as amateurs. Only in 0.7% of the minor applications, the minor was transferring as a professional.³

Fig. 21: Minor applications submitted in 2018 and decided upon, by player age



³Due to the high numbers of first registrations and international transfers of minors at amateur level, the Players' Status Committee may grant member associations the possibility of a «limited exemption» from the obligation to request authorisation via ITMS. By reducing the number of minor applications, the limited exemption facilitates the participation of minors in amateur football while maintaining transparency (cf. FIFA Circular letter #1209)

I INSTRUCTING ASSOCIATIONS AND PLAYER NATIONALITY I

Fig. 22: Top 15 member associations by number of minor applications submitted in 2018 and decided upon

Top 15 instructing associations		
Association	Minor applications	% approved
USA	50	90.0%
Germany	33	93.9%
Luxembourg	25	100.0%
Spain	17	64.7%
Finland	16	100.0%
Hungary	14	100.0%
France	9	77.8%
Ireland	9	100.0%
Portugal	8	87.5%
Switzerland	8	87.5%
Chile	7	100.0%
Slovenia	7	85.7%
Cyprus	6	100.0%
England	6	66.7%
Israel	6	83.3%

Fig. 23: Top 15 player nationalities by number of minor applications submitted in 2018 and decided upon

Top 15 nationalities		
Nationality	Minor applications	% approved
USA	27	96.3%
Dutch	25	100.0%
Canadian	23	95.7%
Portuguese	15	100.0%
Finnish	14	100.0%
Slovakian	11	100.0%
French	10	70.0%
German	9	88.9%
Irish	9	100.0%
Brazilian	8	87.5%
British	8	100.0%
Ukrainian	8	87.5%
Islandic	7	14.3%
Italian	7	100.0%
Australian	6	83.3%

I DISCLAIMER I

General disclaimer

The information contained in this report is based on individual transaction data provided directly by football clubs in ITMS. FIFA assumes no responsibility for the accuracy, completeness and reliability of the information provided by the clubs.

With regards to technical references possibly included in the present report, please be advised that in the event of any contradiction between the contents of this report and the actual text of the relevant regulations, the latter shall always prevail. Equally, the contents of this report may not alter existing jurisprudence of the competent decision-making bodies and is without prejudice to any decision which the said bodies might be called upon to pass in the future. Due to the nature of the TMS database, the presence of pending transfers, the potential cancellation of transfers, and data correction, numbers may differ from one report to another. In the event of any contradiction between the content of this report and other publications by FIFA and/or FIFA TMS, the most recent shall always prevail.

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Source of data

The source of all data and information (unless explicitly indicated differently) is:

FIFA
TMS Global Transfers & Compliance
Zollikerstrasse 226, 8008 Zurich, Switzerland

Methodological approach

Data provided in the report only concern international transfers of professional female football players within the scope of 11-a-side football.

Transfer data has been analysed for all com-

pleted transfers between 1 January 2018 and 31 December 2018. All data has been extracted from TMS on 28 January 2018.

All information on transfer fees and intermediary commissions is automatically converted into US dollars on the basis of conversion rates as of the day of the transfer's first registration in ITMS.

"Spending/receipts by association" refers to spending or receipts on transfer fees by clubs belonging to a specific association. Numbers in the report are rounded.

Transfers are allocated to a certain calendar year according to the date when they reach the status of "ITC request" in ITMS, irrespective of the date of their first entry.

Data protection

The data contained in TMS and in this review is covered by Swiss data protection law. Those associations whose names appear in this report have expressly authorised FIFA to disclose information concerning their transfers for reporting purposes.

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