

Trends in NFL Player Representation from SEC Schools (2011–2025)

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Abstract

The NCAA SEC is one of the premier conferences in college football from recent years, but how much is each program represented in the draft? We collected our data from Pro-Football-Reference.com and combined each program in the SEC data sets into a singular Excel file and analyzed the data by distinguishing which players came from which college program, seeing if the player was drafted, then drafted within the years 2011–2025. From there we used bar graphs and histograms to further comprehend the trends of the collegiate programs alumni to further analyze when each collegiate program was at its peak during the given time period. Hopefully our analysis can help future students choose which program and legacy they want to lead. For example whether they want to compete on an elite program or compete against an elite program within the conference.

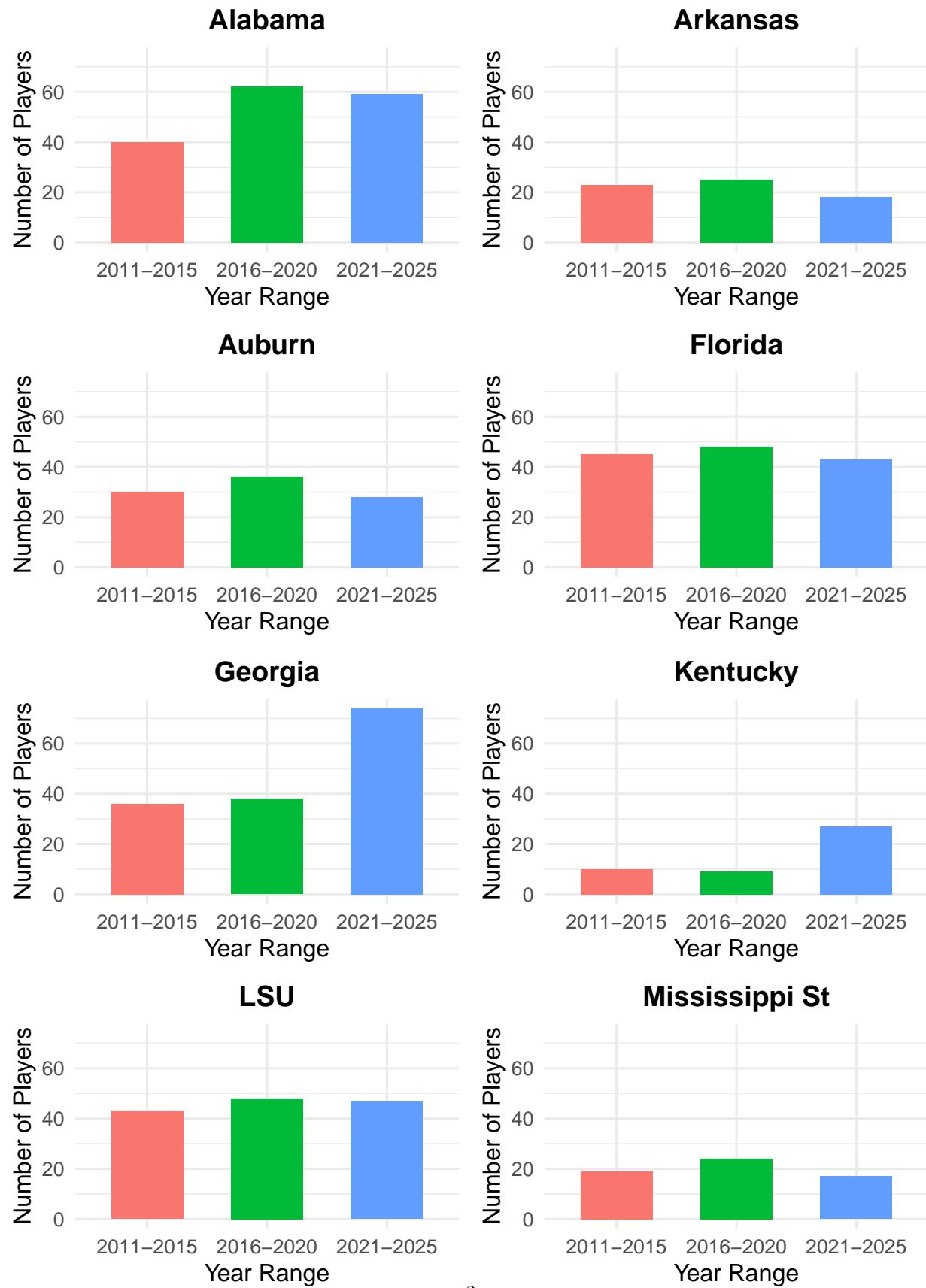
Introduction

The purpose of this analysis is to highlight which schools in the NCAA SEC (South Eastern Conference) have gained representation in the draft and which programs have lost representation in the draft over the last 15 years. This will answer the question: “How has the number of NFL players from each SEC school changed over time (e.g., 2011–2015, 2016–2020, and 2021–2025), and which schools have shown the most growth or decline in player representation?” This analysis may benefit various groups, including NFL scouts/teams, sports analysts/journalists, or other researchers looking to see which college improved the most. The goal is to understand patterns and changes throughout the 2011 - 2015, 2016-2020, and 2021-2025 time periods.

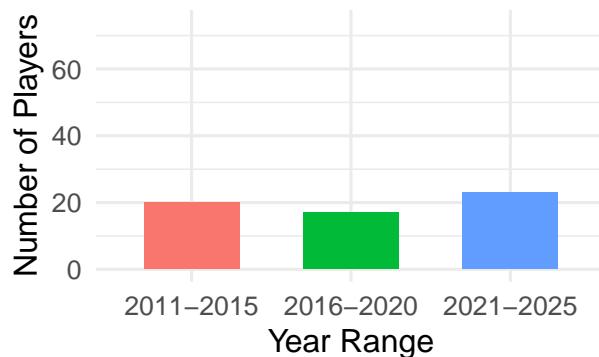
Data

The data set used for this analysis, “College_Dataset.xlsx,” contains information on NFL players and the colleges they attended. The data was obtained from Pro-Football-Reference, a reliable source that collects and publishes official NFL statistics, including player backgrounds and school affiliations. Relevant variables include each player’s name, the college they attended, and the range of years they played in the NFL. During the cleaning process, unnecessary columns such as AP1, PB, St, wAV, Ht, and Wt were removed, keeping only the relevant variables. Additionally, since the data set included players from earlier eras, we extracted the starting year from each player’s career range and filtered the data to include only those who began their NFL careers in 2011 or later. The data is entirely real and will not be generated through any randomized simulation.

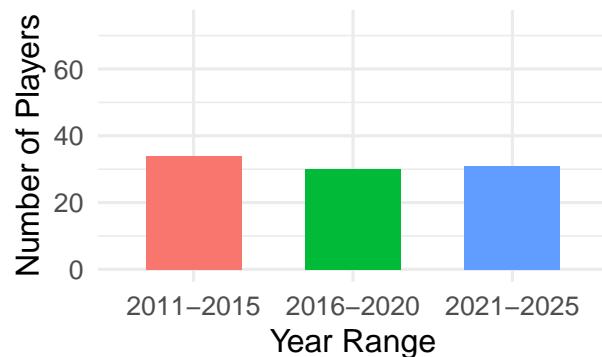
Visualization & Analysis



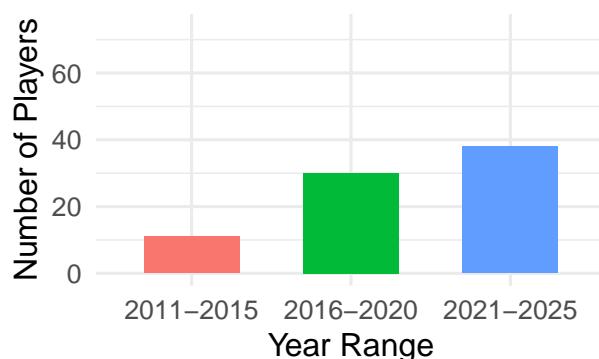
Missouri



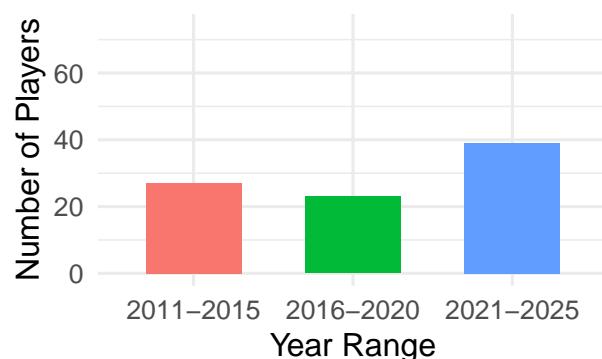
Oklahoma

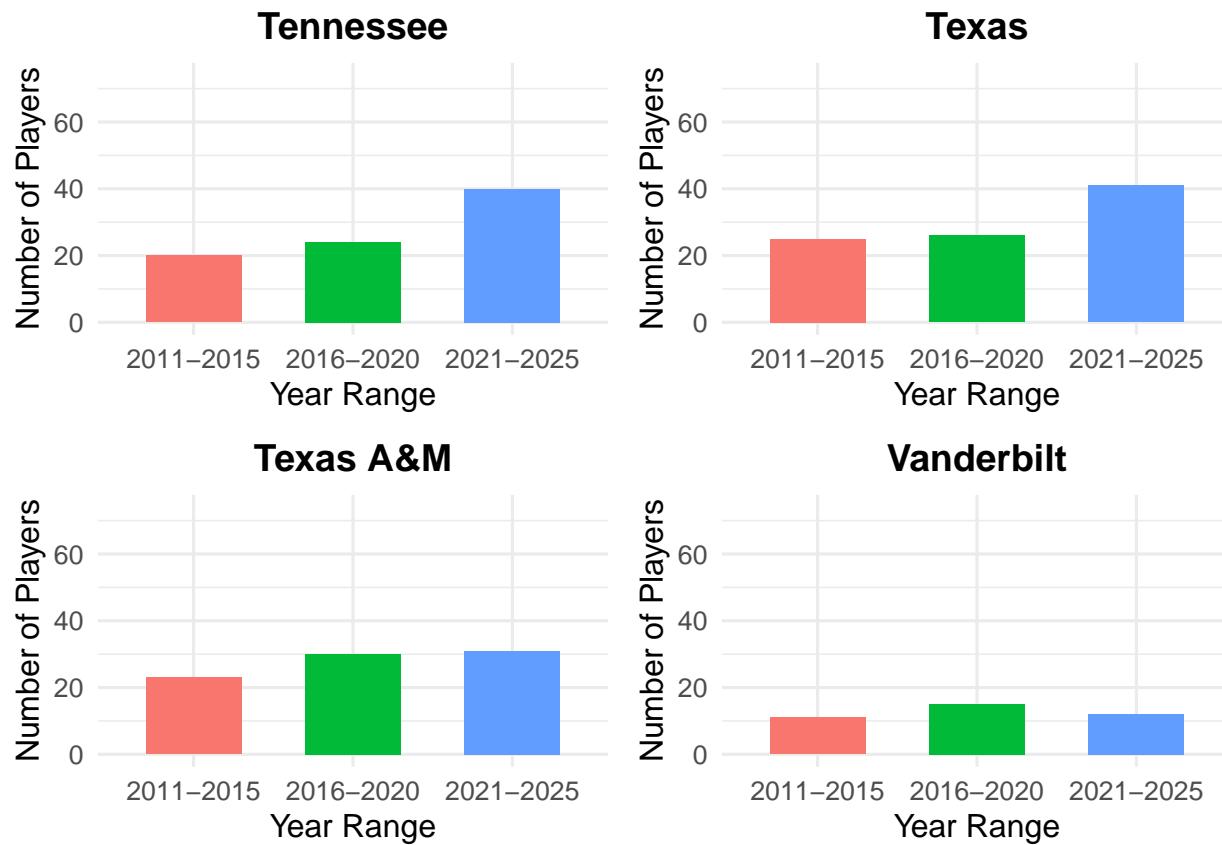


Ole Miss



South Carolina





```
## # A tibble: 16 x 4
##   School      `2011-2015` `2016-2020` `2021-2025`
##   <chr>        <int>       <int>       <int>
## 1 Alabama      40          62          59
## 2 Arkansas     23          25          18
## 3 Auburn        30          36          28
## 4 Florida       45          48          43
## 5 Georgia       36          38          74
## 6 Kentucky      10          9           27
## 7 LSU           43          48          47
## 8 Mississippi St 19          24          17
## 9 Missouri      20          17          23
## 10 Oklahoma     34          30          31
## 11 Ole Miss     11          30          38
## 12 South Carolina 27          23          39
## 13 Tennessee    20          24          40
## 14 Texas         25          26          41
## 15 Texas A&M   23          30          31
## 16 Vanderbilt    11          15          12

## # A tibble: 16 x 3
##   School      `2011-2015 to 2016-2020` `2016-2020 to 2021-2025` 
##   <chr>        <dbl>                      <dbl>                
## 1 Alabama      55                         -4.84                
## 2 Arkansas     8.7                        -28
```

## 3 Auburn	20	-22.2
## 4 Florida	6.67	-10.4
## 5 Georgia	5.56	94.7
## 6 Kentucky	-10	200
## 7 LSU	11.6	-2.08
## 8 Mississippi St	26.3	-29.2
## 9 Missouri	-15	35.3
## 10 Oklahoma	-11.8	3.33
## 11 Ole Miss	173.	26.7
## 12 South Carolina	-14.8	69.6
## 13 Tennessee	20	66.7
## 14 Texas	4	57.7
## 15 Texas A&M	30.4	3.33
## 16 Vanderbilt	36.4	-20

These preliminary visualizations support our future analysis by allowing us to compare the number of NFL players produced by various SEC colleges across different time periods. By examining the bar plots, we can identify early patterns of growth or decline in player representation for each school. In later stages of the analysis, we will compare these bar plots in greater detail to draw conclusions about which colleges have shown the most progress or decline in producing NFL players over the years. Further visualizations we discussed implementing include histograms that display the trends for each collegiate program within the conference during the year 2011-2025 time period.

Analysis

For the analysis, we plan to use descriptive statistics and visual models to track changes in the number of NFL players from each SEC school over the three time periods. We'll look at the overall trend for each school using a simple linear regression, which will help show whether the number of NFL players from that school is going up or down over time. We'll also use percentage change calculations to measure growth rates and rank the schools based on overall gains or declines. These methods should make it clear which schools have built a stronger NFL presence over time. We expect that powerhouse programs like Alabama and Georgia will show a steady growth, while schools like Vanderbilt and Auburn may show slight growth or even a decline. For further analysis discussing the histograms hopefully the year by year displays for each collegiate program in the conference will further contribute to our theory of steady growth for the elite programs while the lesser known programs won't display such trends. We expect to find that most if not all programs within the conference will display some form of growth within the 2011-2025 time period and then a variation of growth and decay during the covid year as not all programs held the same appeal during the pandemic. With big name schools such as Alabama, Georgia and Texas will display steady growth and the values will remain relatively high compared to lesser known schools such as Auburn and Vanderbilt.

Contributions

Omar Sepulveda: Gathered data sets, completed data section, code used to clean data set, code for the visuals, completed analysis section, and wrote step by step process in README.md

Riccardo Gutierrez: Gathered data sets, completed abstract section, and contributed to visualization and analysis section.

Naomi Menard: Completed introduction, gathered data sets, contributed to data, visuals/code , and analysis section.