

WORLD CUP DATA ANALYSIS:

A COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATION OF RESULTS FROM 1990 – 2014

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Part I – World Cup Analysis: Introduction & Evaluation of Performance by Confederation

In anticipation of the upcoming World Cup in Russia, I decided to conduct a comprehensive statistical analysis on the World Cup. During my research, I gathered data on all World Cup results for the seven tournaments since 1990 and performed numerous analyses on the figures which illuminated a plethora of insights.

Part I of the analysis will evaluate performance by confederation through a series of exhibits.

Exhibit A: Aggregate Stats by Confederation Based on Results from 1990 – 2014

Confederation	World Cups	Teams	Matches	Wins	Losses	Ties	GF	GA	GD	Pts	Win %	Loss %	Tie %	Per Game			
														GF	GA	GD	Pts
1 UEFA	97	30	428	193	131	104	589	451	138	683	45%	31%	24%	1.38	1.05	0.32	1.60
2 CONMEBOL	33	8	152	74	46	32	212	153	59	254	49%	30%	21%	1.39	1.01	0.39	1.67
3 CONCACAF	21	6	77	19	38	20	76	116	(40)	77	25%	49%	26%	0.99	1.51	(0.52)	1.00
4 CAF	31	12	104	22	55	27	103	164	(61)	93	21%	53%	26%	0.99	1.58	(0.59)	0.89
5 AFC	25	8	84	14	52	18	69	165	(96)	60	17%	62%	21%	0.82	1.96	(1.14)	0.71
6 OFC	1	1	3	0	0	3	2	2	0	3	0%	0%	100%	0.67	0.67	0.00	1.00
Total	208	65	848	322	322	204	1,051	1,051	0	1,170							

The chart above displays aggregate stats by confederation based on the results of the last seven World Cups as well as some key per game metrics. As seen in the chart, we can glean the following insights.

UEFA and CONMEBOL dominate the World Cup

- They lead all confederations in World Cups, Matches, Wins, Goals For, Goal Differential, Points, and Winning Percentage.
- They have accumulated 83% of all Wins and 76% of all Goals For while only accounting for 63% of the field.
- They are the only confederations to win the World Cup.
- UEFA and CONMEBOL have strikingly similar per game metrics, including Goals For (1.38 and 1.39), Goals Against (1.05 and 1.01), and Points (1.60 and 1.67).

CONCACAF, CAF, and AFC are minnows at the World Cup

- The confederations have each won 22 or fewer games cumulatively.
- They each have won less than 25% of their matches and lost more than 49% of their matches.
- The confederations each have a meaningfully negative Goal Differential with each worse than (0.5) per game.
- The confederations each score less than 1.0 goals per game.
- The confederations each do not average more than 1.0 Points per game.

CONCACAF > CAF > AFC¹

- Of the three, the pecking order is CONCACAF, CAF, and AFC. The confederations align in that order based on Winning Percentage, Losing Percentage, Goal Differential per game, and Points per game.

¹ This pecking order is not as straightforward as it seems. Part IV of this analysis will delve deeper into the comparative performance of these confederations.

Exhibit B: Per World Cup Stats by Confederation Based on Results from 1990 – 2014

Confederation	World Cups	Per World Cup								Per World Cup Per Team								
		World Cups	Matches	Wins	Losses	Ties	GF	GA	GD	Pts	Matches	Wins	Losses	Ties	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1 UEFA	97	13.9	61.1	27.6	18.7	14.9	84.1	64.4	19.7	97.6	4.4	2.0	1.4	1.1	6.1	4.6	1.4	7.0
2 CONMEBOL	33	4.7	21.7	10.6	6.6	4.6	30.3	21.9	8.4	36.3	4.6	2.2	1.4	1.0	6.4	4.6	1.8	7.7
3 CONCACAF	21	3.0	11.0	2.7	5.4	2.9	10.9	16.6	(5.7)	11.0	3.7	0.9	1.8	1.0	3.6	5.5	(1.9)	3.7
4 CAF	31	4.4	14.9	3.1	7.9	3.9	14.7	23.4	(8.7)	13.3	3.4	0.7	1.8	0.9	3.3	5.3	(2.0)	3.0
5 AFC	25	3.6	12.0	2.0	7.4	2.6	9.9	23.6	(13.7)	8.6	3.4	0.6	2.1	0.7	2.8	6.6	(3.8)	2.4
6 OFC	1	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.4	3.0	0.0	0.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	0.0	3.0
Total	208	29.7	121.1	46.0	46.0	29.1	150.1	150.1	0.0	167.1	22.4	6.4	8.4	7.6	24.2	28.7	(4.5)	26.8

The chart above slices the previous chart’s aggregate confederation stats into per World Cup and per Team per World Cup stats for another vantage point on the data.

Per World Cup Breakdown

- UEFA comprises nearly half (47%) of teams at the World Cup, followed by CONMEBOL (16%), CAF (15%), AFC (12%), and CONCACAF (10%).
- UEFA wins 60% of all matches at a World Cup followed by CONMEBOL at 23%, both of which are above their proportional representation.
- CONCACAF, CAF, and AFC do not combine to win even 17% of all matches and average only 2-3 wins per World Cup for their entire confederation, which is less than one per team.
- The difference in Goal Differential is stark. UEFA and CONMEBOL are significantly positive whereas CONCACAF, CAF, and AFC are significantly negative.

Per World Cup Per Team Breakdown

- The average CONMEBOL team is strongest - they boast the best metrics in Matches, Wins, Losses, Goals For, Goals Against, Goal Differential, and Points.
- UEFA follows closely behind CONMEBOL with the second-best metrics in each of the categories.
- CONCACAF, CAF, and AFC trail UEFA and CONMEBOL in an orderly fashion with CONCACAF performing third-best in all categories, CAF performing fourth-best in all categories, and AFC performing last in all categories.

Exhibit C: Advancement Stats by Confederation Based on Results from 1990 – 2014**World Cup Results - Final Place by Confederation**

Confederation	Champion	Runner-Up	Third Place	Fourth Place	QFs	R16	GS	Total
UEFA	5	4	7	4	16	25	36	97
CONMEBOL	2	3	-	2	7	11	8	33
CONCACAF	-	-	-	-	2	10	9	21
CAF	-	-	-	-	3	5	23	31
AFC	-	-	-	1	-	5	19	25
OFC	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Total	7	7	7	7	28	56	96	208

World Cup Results - Final Place by Confederation (% of Confederation Total)

Confederation	Champion	Runner-Up	Third Place	Fourth Place	QFs	R16	GS	Total
UEFA	5%	4%	7%	4%	16%	26%	37%	100%
CONMEBOL	6%	9%	-	6%	21%	33%	24%	100%
CONCACAF	-	-	-	-	10%	48%	43%	100%
CAF	-	-	-	-	10%	16%	74%	100%
AFC	-	-	-	4%	-	20%	76%	100%
OFC	-	-	-	-	-	-	100%	100%

The tables above tally the final place by confederation based on results of the last seven World Cups.

UEFA and CONMEBOL punch above their weight

- They account for all Champions, Runner-ups, and Third Place finishes.
- They account for 6 of 7 Fourth Place finishes.
- They have low Group Stages elimination rates with only 37% and 24% of teams failing to survive the Group Stages.

CONCACAF, CAF, and AFC punch below their weight

- The only country to make the Semi-Finals from a confederation other than UEFA or CONMEBOL is South Korea in 2002 where they co-hosted the World Cup and benefited from suspect [refereeing](#).
- They have high Group Stages elimination rates with 74% and 76% of CAF and AFC teams failing to survive the Group Stages.
- CONCACAF fares much better in the Group Stages with less than half of its teams (43%) exiting during the Group Stages.

Exhibit D: Cumulative Advancement Stats by Confederation Based on Results from 1990 – 2014

World Cup Results - # of Teams at Each Stage by Confederation

Confederation	Champion	Runner-Up	Third Place	Fourth Place	QFs	R16	GS
UEFA	5	9	16	20	36	61	97
CONMEBOL	2	5	5	7	14	25	33
CONCACAF	-	-	-	-	2	12	21
CAF	-	-	-	-	3	8	31
AFC	-	-	-	1	1	6	25
OFC	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Total	7	14	21	28	56	112	208

World Cup Results - # of Teams at Each Stage by Confederation (% of Confederation Total)

Confederation	Champion	Runner-Up	Third Place	Fourth Place	QFs	R16	GS
UEFA	5%	9%	16%	21%	37%	63%	100%
CONMEBOL	6%	15%	15%	21%	42%	76%	100%
CONCACAF	-	-	-	-	10%	57%	100%
CAF	-	-	-	-	10%	26%	100%
AFC	-	-	-	4%	4%	24%	100%
OFC	-	-	-	-	-	-	100%

World Cup Results - % of Teams at Each Stage by Confederation

Confederation	Champion	Runner-Up	Third Place	Fourth Place	QFs	R16	GS
UEFA	71%	64%	76%	71%	64%	54%	47%
CONMEBOL	29%	36%	24%	25%	25%	22%	16%
CONCACAF	-	-	-	-	4%	11%	10%
CAF	-	-	-	-	5%	7%	15%
AFC	-	-	-	4%	2%	5%	12%
OFC	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

The tables above record the number of teams who advanced to each respective stage by confederation based on results of the last seven World Cups.

UEFA and CONMEBOL punch above their weight

- They account for 50 of 56 (89%) of Quarter-Finals teams and 86 of 112 (77%) of Round of 16 teams.
- 21% of participating teams from each confederation reach the Semi-Finals and approximately 40% (37% and 42%, respectively) reach the Quarter-Finals.
- They are overrepresented, relative to their proportion of teams in the World Cup (47% for UEFA and 16% for CONMEBOL, respectively), at each stage of the knockout rounds.

CONCACAF, CAF, and AFC punch below their weight

- They account for only 6 of 56 (11%) of Quarter-Finals teams and 26 of 112 (23%) of Round of 16 teams.
- CONCACAF teams have performed better than expected in the Group Stages with 57% of their teams advancing to the Round of 16, which vastly exceeds CAF (26%) and AFC (24%) and only slightly trails UEFA (63%) and CONMEBOL (76%).

Exhibit E: Results by Confederation from 1990 – 2014

# Stage	Italy 1990	USA 1994	France 1998	S. Korea 2002	Germany 2006	S. Africa 2010	Brazil 2014
1 Champion	UEFA 1	CONMEBOL 1	UEFA 1	CONMEBOL 1	UEFA 1	UEFA 1	UEFA 1
2 Runner-Up	CONMEBOL 1	UEFA 1	CONMEBOL 1	UEFA 1	UEFA 2	UEFA 2	CONMEBOL 1
3 Third Place	UEFA 2	UEFA 2	UEFA 2	UEFA 2	UEFA 3	UEFA 3	UEFA 2
4 Fourth Place	UEFA 3	UEFA 3	UEFA 3	AFC 1	UEFA 4	CONMEBOL 1	CONMEBOL 2
5 Quarter- Finalist	UEFA 4	UEFA 4	UEFA 4	UEFA 3	CONMEBOL 1	CONMEBOL 2	CONMEBOL 3
6 Quarter- Finalist	UEFA 5	UEFA 5	CONMEBOL 2	UEFA 4	CONMEBOL 2	CONMEBOL 3	UEFA 3
7 Quarter- Finalist	CAF 1	UEFA 6	UEFA 5	CAF 1	UEFA 5	CAF 1	UEFA 4
8 Quarter- Finalist	UEFA 6	UEFA 7	UEFA 6	CONCACAF 1	UEFA 6	CONMEBOL 4	CONCACAF 1
9 Round of 16	CONMEBOL 2	CAF 1	UEFA 7	AFC 2	UEFA 7	AFC 1	CONMEBOL 4
10 Round of 16	UEFA 7	CONMEBOL 2	UEFA 8	UEFA 5	UEFA 8	CONMEBOL 5	CONCACAF 2
11 Round of 16	UEFA 8	UEFA 8	UEFA 9	CONCACAF 2	UEFA 9	UEFA 4	UEFA 5
12 Round of 16	UEFA 9	AFC 1	CAF 1	UEFA 6	CONMEBOL 3	CONCACAF 1	CONMEBOL 5
13 Round of 16	CONCACAF 1	CONCACAF 1	CONCACAF 1	UEFA 7	CAF 1	UEFA 5	UEFA 6
14 Round of 16	CONMEBOL 3	CONCACAF 2	CONMEBOL 3	UEFA 8	UEFA 10	CONCACAF 2	CAF 1
15 Round of 16	UEFA 10	UEFA 9	UEFA 10	UEFA 9	CONCACAF 1	AFC 2	CONCACAF 3
16 Round of 16	CONMEBOL 4	UEFA 10	CONMEBOL 4	CONMEBOL 2	AFC 1	UEFA 6	CAF 2
17 Group Stages	UEFA 11	UEFA 11	UEFA 11	CAF 2	AFC 2	CAF 2	CONMEBOL 6
18 Group Stages	UEFA 12	UEFA 12	CAF 2	CONMEBOL 3	CONMEBOL 4	UEFA 7	UEFA 7
19 Group Stages	UEFA 13	CONMEBOL 3	UEFA 12	CONCACAF 3	CAF 2	UEFA 8	UEFA 8
20 Group Stages	CAF 2	AFC 2	AFC 1	CAF 3	UEFA 11	CAF 3	UEFA 9
21 Group Stages	UEFA 14	CONMEBOL 4	CONMEBOL 5	UEFA 10	UEFA 12	AFC 3	CAF 3
22 Group Stages	AFC 1	CAF 2	CONCACAF 2	UEFA 11	UEFA 13	OFC 1	UEFA 10
23 Group Stages	CONCACAF 2	CAF 3	UEFA 13	UEFA 12	CAF 3	UEFA 9	UEFA 11
24 Group Stages	AFC 2	UEFA 13	CAF 3	CONMEBOL 4	CAF 4	UEFA 10	UEFA 12
25 Group Stages			CAF 4	UEFA 13	AFC 3	UEFA 11	CAF 4
26 Group Stages			CAF 5	CONMEBOL 5	CONCACAF 2	UEFA 12	UEFA 13
27 Group Stages			UEFA 14	CAF 4	CONCACAF 3	CAF 4	AFC 1
28 Group Stages			AFC 2	UEFA 14	AFC 4	CAF 5	AFC 2
29 Group Stages			UEFA 15	CAF 5	AFC 5	UEFA 13	AFC 3
30 Group Stages			AFC 3	UEFA 15	CAF 5	CONCACAF 3	AFC 4
31 Group Stages			AFC 4	AFC 3	CONCACAF 4	CAF 6	CONCACAF 4
32 Group Stages			CONCACAF 3	AFC 4	UEFA 14	AFC 4	CAF 5
UEFA	14	13	15	15	14	13	13
CONMEBOL	4	4	5	5	4	5	6
CONCACAF	2	2	3	3	4	3	4
CAF	2	3	5	5	5	6	5
AFC	2	2	4	4	5	4	4
OFC	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Total	24	24	32	32	32	32	32
UEFA	58%	54%	47%	47%	44%	41%	41%
CONMEBOL	17%	17%	16%	16%	13%	16%	19%
CONCACAF	8%	8%	9%	9%	13%	9%	13%
CAF	8%	13%	16%	16%	16%	19%	16%
AFC	8%	8%	13%	13%	16%	13%	13%
OFC	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

UEFA and CONMEBOL punch above their weight

- UEFA has had 1 (5 of 7 World Cups) or 2 (2 of 7) participants in all Finals.
- UEFA has had 1 (3 of 7 World Cups) or 2 (4 of 7) participants in all 3P / 4P games.
- UEFA has won each of past 3 World Cups in Europe with at least 3 Semi-Finalists in each (4 of 4 in Germany 2006).
- CONMEBOL has had 1 team in either the Finals or Semi-Finals for 5 of last 7 World Cups. No CONMEBOL teams made the Semi-Finals in 2006 and 2 CONMEBOL teams made the Semi-Finals in 2014, which was hosted in South America.
- CONMEBOL has strengthened over the past 3 World Cups.
 - 2 QFs and 1 R16 in 2006
 - 1 SF, 3 QFs, and 1 R16 in 2010
 - 1 F, 1 SF, 1 QF, and 2 R16 in 2014
 - Only 2 teams have failed to advance from Group stages, and they finished 18th (in 2006) and 17th (in 2014), respectively.

World Cup Composition - UEFA & CONMEBOL Underrepresented and CAF & AFC Overrepresented

An analysis of the bottom 16 teams who failed to reach the knockout rounds supports the idea that UEFA and CONMEBOL are underrepresented and CAF and AFC are overrepresented.

Of the 40 teams finishing in the bottom eight of the past five World Cups, 13 (33%) have come from AFC, 10 (25%) have come from CAF, 10 (25%) have come from UEFA, 6 (15%) have come from CONCACAF, and 1 (3%) have come from CONMEBOL. The concentration of AFC and CAF teams in the bottom eight relative to their proportion of the World Cup field as well as the weakness of their aggregate confederation stats illustrates that their allocations are likely too high. In contrast, the lack of UEFA and CONMEBOL teams in the bottom eight relative to their proportion of the World Cup field as well as the strength of their aggregate confederation stats demonstrates that their allocations are likely too low.

However, it must be stated that the World Cup's objective is not simply to field the best 32 nations but to be a global competition of the world's best. While it may be accretive to the overall quality of the World Cup field to limit AFC, CAF, and CONCACAF to three (or fewer) teams apiece, it is unlikely FIFA will make such a radical change. That being said, there is a compelling argument for transferring a bid each from CAF and AFC to UEFA and CONMEBOL, respectively.

CONCACAF, while performing much worse than UEFA and CONMEBOL, appears to benefit from a more logical World Cup allocation than CAF and AFC. Since they have fewer spots, the highest quality nations from the region tend to earn qualification and underlings, who would be susceptible to poor performances at the World Cup, rarely make it. In contrast, since CAF and AFC are overrepresented, the weakest squads to earn qualification tend to perform poorly at the World Cup as they are largely overmatched relative to the strength of competition.

Exhibit F: Number of Teams to Advance in Knockout Rounds by Confederation from 1998 – 2014

Round of 16	Italy 1990	USA 1994	France 1998	S. Korea 2002	Germany 2006	S. Africa 2010	Brazil 2014	Average
UEFA			10	9	10	6	6	8.2
CONMEBOL			4	2	3	5	5	3.8
CONCACAF			1	2	1	2	3	1.8
CAF			1	1	1	1	2	1.2
AFC			-	2	1	2	-	1.0
Total			16	16	16	16	16	16.0

Quarter-Finals	Italy 1990	USA 1994	France 1998	S. Korea 2002	Germany 2006	S. Africa 2010	Brazil 2014	Average
UEFA			6	4	6	3	4	4.6
CONMEBOL			2	1	2	4	3	2.4
CONCACAF			-	1	-	-	1	0.4
CAF			-	1	-	1	-	0.4
AFC			-	1	-	-	-	0.2
Total			8	8	8	8	8	8.0

Semi-Finals	Italy 1990	USA 1994	France 1998	S. Korea 2002	Germany 2006	S. Africa 2010	Brazil 2014	Average
UEFA			3	2	4	3	2	2.8
CONMEBOL			1	1	-	1	2	1.0
CONCACAF			-	-	-	-	-	0.0
CAF			-	-	-	-	-	0.0
AFC			-	1	-	-	-	0.2
Total			4	4	4	4	4	4.0

Finals	Italy 1990	USA 1994	France 1998	S. Korea 2002	Germany 2006	S. Africa 2010	Brazil 2014	Average
UEFA			1	1	2	2	1	1.4
CONMEBOL			1	1	-	-	1	0.6
CONCACAF			-	-	-	-	-	0.0
CAF			-	-	-	-	-	0.0
AFC			-	-	-	-	-	0.0
Total			2	2	2	2	2	2.0

The table above and summary below highlight the boost that confederations receive when they host the World Cup, as measured by the number of teams reaching the respective knockout rounds in a home World Cup compared to the average number of teams reaching the respective knockout rounds across all World Cups.

Home Continent Advantage by Knockout Round

- UEFA (1998 and 2006)
 - R16
 - 10 teams - 1.8 teams ahead of average
 - 10 teams - 1.8 teams ahead of average
 - QF
 - 6 teams - 1.4 teams ahead of average
 - 6 teams - 1.4 teams ahead of average
 - SF
 - 3 teams - 0.2 teams ahead of average
 - 4 teams - 1.2 teams ahead of average
 - F
 - 1 team - 0.4 teams behind average
 - 2 teams - 0.6 teams ahead of average

- AFC (2002)
 - R16
 - 2 teams - 1.0 teams ahead of average
 - QF
 - 1 team - 0.8 teams ahead of average
 - SF
 - 1 team - 0.8 teams ahead of average
 - F
 - N/A
- CAF (2010)
 - R16
 - 1 team - 0.2 teams behind average
 - QF
 - 1 team - 0.6 teams ahead of average
 - SF
 - N/A
 - F
 - N/A
- CONMEBOL (2014)
 - R16
 - 5 teams - 1.2 teams ahead of average
 - QF
 - 3 teams - 0.6 teams ahead of average
 - SF
 - 2 teams - 1.0 teams ahead of average
 - F
 - 1 team - 0.4 teams ahead of average

Exhibit G: Composite Results by Confederation Based on Actual Results from 1998 – 2014

# Stage	Composite
1 Champion	UEFA 1
2 Runner-Up	UEFA 2
3 Third Place	CONMEBOL 1
4 Fourth Place	UEFA 3
5 Quarter- Finalist	UEFA 4
6 Quarter- Finalist	CONMEBOL 2
7 Quarter- Finalist	UEFA 5
8 Quarter- Finalist	CAF 1
9 Round of 16	CONMEBOL 3
10 Round of 16	CONCACAF 1
11 Round of 16	UEFA 6
12 Round of 16	UEFA 7
13 Round of 16	UEFA 8
14 Round of 16	AFC 1
15 Round of 16	CONMEBOL 4
16 Round of 16	UEFA 9
17 Group Stages	CAF 2
18 Group Stages	CONCACAF 2
19 Group Stages	CONMEBOL 5
20 Group Stages	AFC 2
21 Group Stages	UEFA 10
22 Group Stages	UEFA 11
23 Group Stages	CAF 3
24 Group Stages	UEFA 12
25 Group Stages	CONCACAF 3
26 Group Stages	UEFA 13
27 Group Stages	CAF 4
28 Group Stages	AFC 3
29 Group Stages	CAF 5
30 Group Stages	UEFA 14
31 Group Stages	AFC 4
32 Group Stages	CONCACAF (4) / AFC (5) / OFC (1)

The table above displays a composite of World Cup performance by confederation based on the average results of the past five World Cups since the field expanded to 32 teams. Please note this analysis does

not adjust for geography. Please also note that for the upcoming World Cup, the final spot (which is the composite of CONCACAF, AFC, and OFC based on playoff results) will be a fifth team from AFC - Australia.

Part II – World Cup Analysis: Evaluation of Performance by Country

Exhibit H: Results by Country from 1990 – 2014

# Stage	Italy 1990	USA 1994	France 1998	S. Korea 2002	Germany 2006	S. Africa 2010	Brazil 2014
1 Champion	Germany	Brazil	France	Brazil	Italy	Spain	Germany
2 Runner-Up	Argentina	Italy	Brazil	Germany	France	Netherlands	Argentina
3 Third Place	Italy	Sweden	Croatia	Turkey	Germany	Germany	Netherlands
4 Fourth Place	England	Bulgaria	Netherlands	South Korea	Portugal	Uruguay	Brazil
5 Quarter- Finalist	Yugoslavia	Germany	Italy	Spain	Brazil	Argentina	Colombia
6 Quarter- Finalist	Czechoslovakia	Romania	Argentina	England	Argentina	Brazil	Belgium
7 Quarter- Finalist	Cameroon	Netherlands	Germany	Senegal	England	Ghana	France
8 Quarter- Finalist	Ireland	Spain	Denmark	USA	Ukraine	Paraguay	Costa Rica
9 Round of 16	Brazil	Nigeria	England	Japan	Spain	Japan	Chile
10 Round of 16	Spain	Argentina	Yugoslavia	Denmark	Switzerland	Chile	Mexico
11 Round of 16	Belgium	Belgium	Romania	Mexico	Netherlands	Portugal	Switzerland
12 Round of 16	Romania	Saudi Arabia	Nigeria	Ireland	Ecuador	USA	Uruguay
13 Round of 16	Costa Rica	Mexico	Mexico	Sweden	Ghana	England	Greece
14 Round of 16	Colombia	USA	Paraguay	Belgium	Sweden	Mexico	Algeria
15 Round of 16	Netherlands	Switzerland	Norway	Italy	Mexico	South Korea	USA
16 Round of 16	Uruguay	Ireland	Chile	Paraguay	Australia	Slovakia	Nigeria
17 Group Stages	Russia	Norway	Spain	South Africa	South Korea	Ivory Coast	Ecuador
18 Group Stages	Austria	Russia	Morocco	Argentina	Paraguay	Slovenia	Portugal
19 Group Stages	Scotland	Colombia	Belgium	Costa Rica	Ivory Coast	Switzerland	Croatia
20 Group Stages	Egypt	South Korea	Iran	Cameroon	Czech Republic	South Africa	Bosnia
21 Group Stages	Sweden	Bolivia	Colombia	Portugal	Poland	Australia	Ivory Coast
22 Group Stages	South Korea	Cameroon	Jamaica	Russia	Croatia	New Zealand	Italy
23 Group Stages	USA	Morocco	Austria	Croatia	Angola	Serbia	Spain
24 Group Stages	UAE	Greece	South Africa	Ecuador	Tunisia	Denmark	Russia
25 Group Stages			Cameroon	Poland	Iran	Greece	Ghana
26 Group Stages			Tunisia	Uruguay	USA	Italy	England
27 Group Stages			Scotland	Nigeria	Trinidad & Tobago	Nigeria	South Korea
28 Group Stages			Saudi Arabia	France	Japan	Algeria	Iran
29 Group Stages			Bulgaria	Tunisia	Saudi Arabia	France	Japan
30 Group Stages			South Korea	Slovenia	Togo	Honduras	Australia
31 Group Stages			Japan	China	Costa Rica	Cameroon	Honduras
32 Group Stages			USA	Saudi Arabia	Serbia	North Korea	Cameroon

The table above is a visual analysis of World Cup results by country since 1990.

Exhibit I: Aggregate Stats by Country Based on Results from 1990 – 2014

#	Country	Confederation	World Cups	Matches	Wins	Losses	Ties	GF	GA	GD	Pts	Win %	Loss %	Tie %	Per Game			
															GF	GA	Pts	
1	Germany	UEFA	7	45	32	6	7	94	36	58	103	71%	13%	16%	2.09	0.80	1.29	2.29
2	Brazil	CONMEBOL	7	42	29	7	6	77	39	38	93	69%	17%	14%	1.83	0.93	0.90	2.21
3	Italy	UEFA	7	36	20	6	10	49	25	24	70	56%	17%	28%	1.36	0.69	0.67	1.94
4	Argentina	CONMEBOL	7	36	20	8	8	54	29	25	68	56%	22%	22%	1.50	0.81	0.69	1.89
5	Netherlands	UEFA	6	34	19	6	9	54	29	25	66	56%	18%	26%	1.59	0.85	0.74	1.94
6	Spain	UEFA	7	31	18	7	6	55	32	23	60	58%	23%	19%	1.77	1.03	0.74	1.94
7	France	UEFA	5	25	13	5	7	35	15	20	46	52%	20%	28%	1.40	0.60	0.80	1.84
8	England	UEFA	6	28	11	6	11	32	24	8	44	39%	21%	39%	1.14	0.86	0.29	1.57
9	Belgium	UEFA	5	20	9	6	5	25	21	4	32	45%	30%	25%	1.25	1.05	0.20	1.60
10	Portugal	UEFA	4	17	7	6	4	24	17	7	25	41%	35%	24%	1.41	1.00	0.41	1.47
11	Mexico	CONCACAF	6	24	8	8	8	30	28	2	32	33%	33%	33%	1.25	1.17	0.08	1.33
12	Romania	UEFA	3	13	6	3	4	18	15	3	22	46%	23%	31%	1.38	1.15	0.23	1.69
13	Colombia	CONMEBOL	4	15	7	7	1	21	16	5	22	47%	47%	7%	1.40	1.07	0.33	1.47
14	Croatia	UEFA	4	16	7	7	2	21	17	4	23	44%	44%	13%	1.31	1.06	0.25	1.44
15	Switzerland	UEFA	4	15	6	5	4	17	15	2	22	40%	33%	27%	1.13	1.00	0.13	1.47
16	Sweden	UEFA	4	18	5	6	7	26	23	3	22	28%	33%	39%	1.44	1.28	0.17	1.22
17	Paraguay	CONMEBOL	4	16	4	6	6	14	13	1	18	25%	38%	38%	0.88	0.81	0.06	1.13
18	Uruguay	CONMEBOL	4	18	6	7	5	21	24	(3)	23	33%	39%	28%	1.17	1.33	(0.17)	1.28
19	Denmark	UEFA	3	12	5	5	2	17	18	(1)	17	42%	42%	17%	1.42	1.50	(0.08)	1.42
20	Chile	CONMEBOL	3	12	4	4	4	14	17	(3)	16	33%	33%	33%	1.17	1.42	(0.25)	1.33
21	Ecuador	CONMEBOL	3	10	4	5	1	10	11	(1)	13	40%	50%	10%	1.00	1.10	(0.10)	1.30
22	Ireland	UEFA	4	13	2	3	8	10	10	0	14	15%	23%	62%	0.77	0.77	0.00	1.08
23	Costa Rica	CONCACAF	4	15	5	6	4	17	23	(6)	19	33%	40%	27%	1.13	1.53	(0.40)	1.27
24	Ghana	CAF	3	12	4	5	3	13	16	(3)	15	33%	42%	25%	1.08	1.33	(0.25)	1.25
25	Russia	UEFA	4	12	3	7	2	17	17	0	11	25%	58%	17%	1.42	1.42	0.00	0.92
26	Nigeria	CAF	5	18	5	10	3	20	26	(6)	18	28%	56%	17%	1.11	1.44	(0.33)	1.00
27	Ivory Coast	CAF	3	9	3	5	1	13	14	(1)	10	33%	56%	11%	1.44	1.56	(0.11)	1.11
28	South Korea	AFC	7	26	5	13	8	27	44	(17)	23	19%	50%	31%	1.04	1.69	(0.65)	0.88
29	Japan	AFC	5	17	4	9	4	14	22	(8)	16	24%	53%	24%	0.82	1.29	(0.47)	0.94
30	USA	CONCACAF	7	26	5	15	6	25	41	(16)	21	19%	58%	23%	0.96	1.58	(0.62)	0.81
31	South Africa	CAF	3	9	2	3	4	11	16	(5)	10	22%	33%	44%	1.22	1.78	(0.56)	1.11
32	Cameroon	CAF	6	20	4	12	4	17	42	(25)	16	20%	60%	20%	0.85	2.10	(1.25)	0.80
33	Australia	AFC	3	10	2	6	2	11	21	(10)	8	20%	60%	20%	1.10	2.10	(1.00)	0.80
34	Greece	UEFA	3	10	2	6	2	5	20	(15)	8	20%	60%	20%	0.50	2.00	(1.50)	0.80
35	Iran	AFC	3	9	1	6	2	5	14	(9)	5	11%	67%	22%	0.56	1.56	(1.00)	0.56
36	Saudi Arabia	AFC	4	13	2	9	2	9	32	(23)	8	15%	69%	15%	0.69	2.46	(1.77)	0.62
37	Tunisia	CAF	3	9	0	6	3	5	15	(10)	3	0%	67%	33%	0.56	1.67	(1.11)	0.33

Based on a ranking analysis of eight criteria², I divided the 37 nations who have made three or more of the past seven World Cups into cohorts of similar performance.

Cohort # 1: Powerhouses with Multiple World Cup Victories

Mild Surprise - Germany Clearly Ahead of Brazil

- I was expecting the top spot to be closer, but Germany is superior to Brazil on all criteria.
- That being said, Brazil is clearly head and shoulders above every other country on all criteria.

² Criteria based on World Cups Made (World Cups), Matches Played (Matches), Total Goal Differential (GD), Total Points (Pts), Winning Percentage (Win %), Losing Percentage (Loss %), Per Game Goal Differential (Per Game GD), and Per Game Points (Per Game Pts).

Cohort # 2: Global Powers with Repeated Successes and at Least One Finals Appearance

Usual Suspects - Difficult to Find Much Separation Between the Teams

- There is not much differentiation on any criteria between the teams in this cluster which features all the usual suspects after cohort #1.
- It's interesting to note the similarities in certain categories.
 - 18-20 wins for Italy, Argentina, the Netherlands, and Spain (France with fewer wins given their DNQs in 1990 and 1994).
 - 20-25 Goal Differential for all five teams.
 - 52%-58% Winning Percentage for all five teams.
 - 17%-23% Losing Percentage for all five teams.
 - 1.84-1.94 Points per game for all five teams.

Cohort # 3: Contenders with Positive Track Record and Ability to Advance to Later Rounds

History of Strong Performances at the World Cup

- This group begins to show disparities on certain categories though the teams are largely similar.
 - Some teams have few (Romania, 3) and some teams have many (England, 6 and Mexico, 6) World Cup appearances.
 - All teams have at least five wins and no teams have a losing record except Sweden who is one game under .500 (5-6-7).
 - England and Sweden have the highest Tie Percentage (39%) in the top 20 teams.
 - Mexico and Sweden have the lowest Winning Percentage (Mexico, 33% and Sweden, 28%) of the cohort.
 - All teams have a single digit positive Goal Differential.

Cohort # 4: Noisemakers Who Don't Always Qualify but Show Well When They Do

History of Above-Average Performances at the World Cup

- This group consists of only a few teams and is mostly similar.
 - All teams have 4-6 wins and a record either .500 or 1-2 games under .500.

Cohort # 5: Hodgepodge of Countries Characterized by Mediocre, Albeit Volatile, Performance

History of Below-Average Performances at the World Cup

- This group has some minor disparities but is mostly similar.
 - All teams have five or fewer wins and a Winning Percentage at 33% or less except for Ecuador (40%).
 - All teams have a Losing Percentage between 40%-60% except for Ireland (23%) and South Africa (33%).
 - No teams have a positive Goal Differential (Ireland and Russia at 0).

Cohort # 6: Laggards with Limited to No Success at the World Cup

History of Dreadful Performances at the World Cup

- This group is smaller and has largely similar performance.
 - All teams have two or fewer wins and a Winning Percentage of 20% or less.
 - All teams have a Losing Percentage of 60% or greater
 - All teams have (1.0) Goal Differential per game or worse.
 - All teams have 0.80 Points per game or fewer.

Exhibit J: Advancement Stats by Country Based on Results from 1990 – 2014

Team	Champion	Runner-Up	Third Place	Fourth Place	QFs	R16	GS	Total
Germany	2	1	2	-	2	-	-	7
Brazil	2	1	-	1	2	1	-	7
Italy	1	1	1	-	1	1	2	7
Argentina	-	2	-	-	3	1	1	7
Netherlands	-	1	1	1	1	2	-	6
Spain	1	-	-	-	2	2	2	7
France	1	1	-	-	1	-	2	5
England	-	-	-	1	2	2	1	6
Belgium	-	-	-	-	1	3	1	5
Portugal	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	4
Mexico	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	6
Romania	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	3
Colombia	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	4
Croatia	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	4
Switzerland	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	4
Sweden	-	-	1	-	-	2	1	4
Paraguay	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	4
Uruguay	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	4
Denmark	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	3
Chile	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3
Ecuador	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3
Ireland	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	3
Costa Rica	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	4
Ghana	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	3
Russia	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4
Nigeria	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	5
Ivory Coast	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
South Korea	-	-	-	1	-	1	5	7
Japan	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	5
USA	-	-	-	-	1	3	3	7
South Africa	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
Cameroon	-	-	-	-	1	-	5	6
Australia	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3
Greece	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3
Iran	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
Saudi Arabia	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	4
Tunisia	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3

Team	Champion	Runner-Up	Third Place	Fourth Place	QFs	R16	GS	Total
Germany	29%	14%	29%	-	29%	-	-	100%
Brazil	29%	14%	-	14%	29%	14%	-	100%
Italy	14%	14%	14%	-	14%	14%	29%	100%
Argentina	-	29%	-	-	43%	14%	14%	100%
Netherlands	-	17%	17%	17%	17%	33%	-	100%
Spain	14%	-	-	-	29%	29%	29%	100%
France	20%	20%	-	-	20%	-	40%	100%
England	-	-	-	17%	33%	33%	17%	100%
Belgium	-	-	-	-	20%	60%	20%	100%
Portugal	-	-	-	25%	-	25%	50%	100%
Mexico	-	-	-	-	-	100%	-	100%
Romania	-	-	-	-	33%	67%	-	100%
Colombia	-	-	-	-	25%	25%	50%	100%
Croatia	-	-	25%	-	-	-	75%	100%
Switzerland	-	-	-	-	-	75%	25%	100%
Sweden	-	-	25%	-	-	50%	25%	100%
Paraguay	-	-	-	-	25%	50%	25%	100%
Uruguay	-	-	-	25%	-	50%	25%	100%
Denmark	-	-	-	-	33%	33%	33%	100%
Chile	-	-	-	-	-	100%	-	100%
Ecuador	-	-	-	-	-	33%	67%	100%
Ireland	-	-	-	-	33%	67%	-	100%
Costa Rica	-	-	-	-	25%	25%	50%	100%
Ghana	-	-	-	-	33%	33%	33%	100%
Russia	-	-	-	-	-	-	100%	100%
Nigeria	-	-	-	-	-	60%	40%	100%
Ivory Coast	-	-	-	-	-	-	100%	100%
South Korea	-	-	-	14%	-	14%	71%	100%
Japan	-	-	-	-	-	40%	60%	100%
USA	-	-	-	-	14%	43%	43%	100%
South Africa	-	-	-	-	-	-	100%	100%
Cameroon	-	-	-	-	17%	-	83%	100%
Australia	-	-	-	-	-	33%	67%	100%
Greece	-	-	-	-	-	33%	67%	100%
Iran	-	-	-	-	-	-	100%	100%
Saudi Arabia	-	-	-	-	-	25%	75%	100%
Tunisia	-	-	-	-	-	-	100%	100%

Consistent Dominance

- Germany has made the Quarter-Finals or better in each of the last 7 World Cups.
- Brazil has made the Quarter-Finals or better in 6 of the last 7 World Cups and advanced out of the Group Stages in each of the last 7 World Cups.

Volatile Performance from World Cup Winners

- Italy won the 2006 World Cup, finished second in 1994, and finished third in 1990. They also failed to advance from the Group Stages in 2010 and 2014 and failed to qualify for 2018.
- France won the 1998 World Cup and finished second in 2006. Prior to winning the 1998 World Cup, they failed to qualify for consecutive World Cups in 1990 and 1994. They also failed to advance from the Group Stages in 2010.

Trends from Other Strong Performers

- Argentina has made the Quarter-Finals or better in 5 of the last 7 World Cups and advanced out of the Group Stages in 6 of the last 7 World Cups. They have finished second twice - in 1990 and 2014.
- Netherlands has advanced out of the Group Stages in each of the most recent 6 World Cups in which they participated and made the Semi-Finals or better in 3 of these 6 World Cups. They failed to qualify for the 2002 and 2018 World Cups.
- Spain has only advanced beyond the Quarter-Finals once, winning the World Cup in 2010. Their reputation as attractive style of play but lack of killer instinct (other than 2010) certainly holds as they boast impressive statistics but have only reached the Quarter-Finals three times.

Other Notable Highlights

- England has advanced out of the Group Stages in 5 of the 6 World Cups in which they participated but have only advanced to the Semi-Finals once (in 1990).
- Belgium has advanced out of the Group Stages in 4 of the 5 World Cups in which they participated but have only advanced to the Quarter-Finals once (in 2014).
- Mexico has advanced to and been eliminated in six consecutive Round of 16's. Consistent!

Countries with One Special Run

- Croatia finished third in 1998 but have not advanced out of the Group Stages in any other World Cup.
- Sweden finished third in 1994 but have not advanced past the Round of 16 since, even missing 3 of the 6 World Cups.

Countries with Strong Performance in Few Appearances

- Chile has reached the Round of 16 in each of the 3 World Cups in which they participated.
- Ireland has advanced out of the Group Stages in each of the 3 World Cups in which they participated, making 2 Round of 16's and 1 Quarter-Finals.

Countries with Poor Advancement Records

- Russia has failed to advance from the Group Stages in each of the 4 World Cups in which they participated.
- Ivory Coast has failed to advance from the Group Stages in each of the 3 World Cups in which they participated.

- South Korea has been eliminated in the Group Stages in each of the last 7 World Cups except for 2002 (played in South Korea and Japan) where they finished fourth and 2010 (played in South Africa) where they reached the Round of 16.
- Japan has mirrored South Korea. They have been eliminated in the Group Stages in each of the last 5 World Cups in which they participated except for 2002 (played in South Korea and Japan) and 2010 (played in South Africa) where they reached the Round of 16.

Exhibit K: Cumulative Advancement Stats by Country Based on Results from 1990 – 2014

Team	Champion	Runner-Up	Third Place	Fourth Place	QFs	R16	GS
Germany	2	3	5	5	7	7	7
Brazil	2	3	3	4	6	7	7
Italy	1	2	3	3	4	5	7
Argentina	-	2	2	2	5	6	7
Netherlands	-	1	2	3	4	6	6
Spain	1	1	1	1	3	5	7
France	1	2	2	2	3	3	5
England	-	-	-	1	3	5	6
Belgium	-	-	-	-	1	4	5
Portugal	-	-	-	1	1	2	4
Mexico	-	-	-	-	-	6	6
Romania	-	-	-	-	1	3	3
Colombia	-	-	-	-	1	2	4
Croatia	-	-	1	1	1	1	4
Switzerland	-	-	-	-	-	3	4
Sweden	-	-	1	1	1	3	4
Paraguay	-	-	-	-	1	3	4
Uruguay	-	-	-	1	1	3	4
Denmark	-	-	-	-	1	2	3
Chile	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
Ecuador	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
Ireland	-	-	-	-	1	3	3
Costa Rica	-	-	-	-	1	2	4
Ghana	-	-	-	-	1	2	3
Russia	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Nigeria	-	-	-	-	-	3	5
Ivory Coast	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
South Korea	-	-	-	1	1	2	7
Japan	-	-	-	-	-	2	5
USA	-	-	-	-	1	4	7
South Africa	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Cameroon	-	-	-	-	1	1	6
Australia	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
Greece	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
Iran	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Saudi Arabia	-	-	-	-	-	1	4
Tunisia	-	-	-	-	-	-	3

Team	Champion	Runner-Up	Third Place	Fourth Place	QFs	R16	GS
Germany	29%	43%	71%	71%	100%	100%	100%
Brazil	29%	43%	43%	57%	86%	100%	100%
Italy	14%	29%	43%	43%	57%	71%	100%
Argentina	-	29%	29%	29%	71%	86%	100%
Netherlands	-	17%	33%	50%	67%	100%	100%
Spain	14%	14%	14%	14%	43%	71%	100%
France	20%	40%	40%	40%	60%	60%	100%
England	-	-	-	17%	50%	83%	100%
Belgium	-	-	-	-	20%	80%	100%
Portugal	-	-	-	25%	25%	50%	100%
Mexico	-	-	-	-	-	100%	100%
Romania	-	-	-	-	33%	100%	100%
Colombia	-	-	-	-	25%	50%	100%
Croatia	-	-	25%	25%	25%	25%	100%
Switzerland	-	-	-	-	-	75%	100%
Sweden	-	-	25%	25%	25%	75%	100%
Paraguay	-	-	-	-	25%	75%	100%
Uruguay	-	-	-	25%	25%	75%	100%
Denmark	-	-	-	-	33%	67%	100%
Chile	-	-	-	-	-	100%	100%
Ecuador	-	-	-	-	-	33%	100%
Ireland	-	-	-	-	33%	100%	100%
Costa Rica	-	-	-	-	25%	50%	100%
Ghana	-	-	-	-	33%	67%	100%
Russia	-	-	-	-	-	-	100%
Nigeria	-	-	-	-	-	60%	100%
Ivory Coast	-	-	-	-	-	-	100%
South Korea	-	-	-	14%	14%	29%	100%
Japan	-	-	-	-	-	40%	100%
USA	-	-	-	-	14%	57%	100%
South Africa	-	-	-	-	-	-	100%
Cameroon	-	-	-	-	17%	17%	100%
Australia	-	-	-	-	-	33%	100%
Greece	-	-	-	-	-	33%	100%
Iran	-	-	-	-	-	-	100%
Saudi Arabia	-	-	-	-	-	25%	100%
Tunisia	-	-	-	-	-	-	100%

Exhibit L: Advancement Timeline by Country Based on Results from 1990 – 2014

# Country	Italy	USA	France	S. Korea	Germany	S. Africa	Brazil	Russia
	1990	1994	1998	2002	2006	2010	2014	2018
1 Germany	W	QF	QF	F	SF	SF	W	
2 Brazil	R16	W	F	W	QF	QF	SF	
3 Italy	SF	F	QF	R16	W	GS	GS	-
4 Argentina	F	R16	QF	GS	QF	QF	F	
5 Netherlands	R16	QF	SF	-	R16	F	SF	-
6 Spain	R16	QF	GS	QF	R16	W	GS	
7 France	-	-	W	GS	F	GS	QF	
8 England	SF	-	R16	QF	QF	R16	GS	
9 Belgium	R16	R16	GS	R16	-	-	QF	
10 Portugal	-	-	-	GS	SF	R16	GS	
11 Mexico	NA	R16	R16	R16	R16	R16	R16	
12 Romania	R16	QF	R16	-	-	-	-	-
13 Colombia	R16	GS	GS	-	-	-	QF	
14 Croatia	-	-	SF	GS	GS	-	GS	
15 Switzerland	-	R16	-	-	R16	GS	R16	
16 Sweden	GS	SF	-	R16	R16	-	-	
17 Paraguay	-	-	R16	R16	GS	QF	-	-
18 Uruguay	R16	-	-	GS	-	SF	R16	
19 Denmark	-	-	QF	R16	-	GS	-	
20 Chile	-	-	R16	-	-	R16	R16	-
21 Ecuador	-	-	-	GS	R16	-	GS	-
22 Ireland	QF	R16	-	R16	-	-	-	-
23 Costa Rica	R16	-	-	GS	GS	-	QF	
24 Ghana	-	-	-	-	R16	QF	GS	-
25 Russia	GS	GS	-	GS	-	-	GS	
26 Nigeria	-	R16	R16	GS	-	GS	R16	
27 Ivory Coast	-	-	-	-	GS	GS	GS	-
28 South Korea	GS	GS	GS	SF	GS	R16	GS	
29 Japan	-	-	GS	R16	GS	R16	GS	
30 USA	GS	R16	GS	QF	GS	R16	R16	-
31 South Africa	-	-	GS	GS	-	GS	-	-
32 Cameroon	QF	GS	GS	GS	-	GS	GS	-
33 Australia	-	-	-	-	R16	GS	GS	
34 Greece	-	GS	-	-	-	GS	R16	-
35 Iran	-	-	GS	-	GS	-	GS	
36 Saudi Arabia	-	R16	GS	GS	GS	-	-	
37 Tunisia	-	-	GS	GS	GS	-	-	

This table shows a timeline of country performance from 1990 – 2014. I have included some notable storylines stemming from the timeline below.

- Will Germany continue their dominance? They won the last World Cup, won the 2017 Confederations Cup (with a young, less than full strength roster), and have made at least the Semi-Finals in the past 4 World Cups.
- Will Brazil regain their dominance? Since pulling off a Champion, Runner-Up, Champion run in 1998, 2002, and 2006, Brazil has yet to make a Final and bowed out of the 2014 World Cup, which they hosted, with a stunning 7-1 defeat to Germany in the Semi-Finals.
- What is Italy's response to their swift fall from grace? They followed a 2006 World Cup victory with 2 group stage eliminations and a DNQ for the 2018 World Cup.
- Similar to Italy, what is the Netherlands' next step? They followed a Runner-Up and Third Place finish with a DNQ for the 2018 World Cup.
- How will Spain recover from their 2014 World Cup disappointment? After becoming the first team to win consecutive Euros (2008), World Cup (2010), and Euros (2012), they stumbled out of the Group Stages in spectacular fashion. What Spain will we see in Russia 2018?
- Can France put together consecutive positive World Cup performances, which they have not done over this timeframe? Will their stockpile of talent be able to overcome this trend?
- Can England and / or Belgium capitalize on their strongest squads in recent memory to propel a deep run in the World Cup? Neither has made a Semi-Final since 1990.
- Can Mexico snap its Round of 16 streak, either for better or worse? They are a mercurial side equally likely to fall victim to a difficult group and not advance or finally buck their trend and advance deep into the tournament.
- Will Romania ever recover? They have missed 5 consecutive World Cups after having advanced out of the Group Stages in the previous 3 World Cups.
- Will Colombia exploit its golden generation and advance to the knockout rounds for the second consecutive World Cup, a feat it has never done?
- How will Uruguay fare in Europe, after missing the past two World Cups on the continent?
- Like Romania, will Ireland ever recover? They have missed 4 consecutive World Cups after having advanced out of the Group Stages in the previous 3 World Cups in which they competed.
- Can Costa Rica take advantage of its golden generation one more time before age catches up to them?
- Will Russia leverage home-field advantage to advance out of the Group Stages for the first time in 8 World Cups?
- Can South Korea and Japan reverse their historical trends? Each nation has failed to advance out of the Group Stages in World Cups held in Europe. However, each country has experienced a Do Not Advance - Advance coupling for the past 5 World Cups that is slated for Advance if the trend were to continue.
- Will Iran and / or Tunisia be able to make history? Neither country has ever advanced out of the Group Stages.

Part III – World Cup Analysis: Evaluation of Performance by and within Confederations

Exhibit M: UEFA Advancement Place from 1990 – 2014

	Italy 1990	USA 1994	France 1998	S. Korea 2002	Germany 2006	S. Africa 2010	Brazil 2014	Russia 2018	Average All WCs	Average Home WCs
UEFA										
Champion	1	-	1	-	1	1	1		0.7	1.0
Runner-Up	-	1	-	1	1	1	-		0.6	0.3
Third Place	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1.0	1.0
Fourth Place	1	1	1	-	1	-	-		0.6	1.0
QFs	3	4	3	2	2	-	2		2.3	2.7
R16	4	3	4	5	4	3	2		3.6	4.0
GS	4	3	5	6	4	7	7		5.1	4.3
Total	14	13	15	15	14	13	13		13.9	14.3

Advancement Stats

- UEFA has 5 Champions, 4 Runner-Ups, 7 Third Place, and 4 Fourth Place finishes.
 - Champions
 - Germany (1990)
 - France (1998)
 - Italy (2006)
 - Spain (2010)
 - Germany (2014)
 - Runner-Ups
 - Italy (1994)
 - Germany (2002)
 - France (2006)
 - Netherlands (2010)
 - Third Place
 - Italy (1990)
 - Sweden (1994)
 - Croatia (1998)
 - Turkey (2002)
 - Germany (2006)
 - Germany (2010)
 - Netherlands (2014)
 - Fourth Place
 - England (1990)
 - Bulgaria (1994)
 - Netherlands (1998)
 - Portugal (2006)

Home Field Advantage

- UEFA had its best performances in its home World Cups - in 1990, 1998, and 2006. UEFA has won and had at least 3 Semi-Finalists in every World Cup hosted in Europe. Additionally, UEFA

has had 6 Quarter-Finalists in each of these World Cups in Europe. While UEFA has won the most recent two World Cups, neither of which were played in Europe, its Quarter-Finalists tallies (3 in 2010 and 4 in 2014) were significantly lower than that of their home World Cups.

Will history repeat itself in Russia this summer? Should we expect UEFA to win and dominate the knockout rounds?

Exhibit N: UEFA Breakdown by Country from 1990 – 2014

Row Labels	Sum of World Cups	Sum of Matches	Sum of Wins	Sum of Losses	Sum of Ties	Sum of GF	Sum of GA	Sum of GD	Sum of Pts
UEFA									
Austria	2	6	1	3	2	5	7	-2	5
Belgium	5	20	9	6	5	25	21	4	32
Bosnia	1	3	1	2	0	4	4	0	3
Bulgaria	2	10	3	5	2	11	18	-7	11
Croatia	4	16	7	7	2	21	17	4	23
Czech Republic	1	3	1	2	0	3	4	-1	3
Czechoslovakia	1	5	3	2	0	10	5	5	9
Denmark	3	12	5	5	2	17	18	-1	17
England	6	28	11	6	11	32	24	8	44
France	5	25	13	5	7	35	15	20	46
Germany	7	45	32	6	7	94	36	58	103
Greece	3	10	2	6	2	5	20	-15	8
Ireland	3	13	2	3	8	10	10	0	14
Italy	7	36	20	6	10	49	25	24	70
Netherlands	6	34	19	6	9	54	29	25	66
Norway	2	7	2	2	3	6	6	0	9
Poland	2	6	2	4	0	5	11	-6	6
Portugal	4	17	7	6	4	24	17	7	25
Romania	3	13	6	3	4	18	15	3	22
Russia	4	12	3	7	2	17	17	0	11
Scotland	2	6	1	4	1	4	9	-5	4
Serbia	2	6	1	5	0	4	13	-9	3
Slovakia	1	4	1	2	1	5	7	-2	4
Slovenia	2	6	1	4	1	5	10	-5	4
Spain	7	31	18	7	6	55	32	23	60
Sweden	4	18	5	6	7	26	23	3	22
Switzerland	4	15	6	5	4	17	15	2	22
Turkey	1	7	4	2	1	10	6	4	13
Ukraine	1	5	2	2	1	5	7	-2	7
Yugoslavia	2	9	5	2	2	13	10	3	17
UEFA Total	97	428	193	131	104	589	451	138	683

- UEFA has been the best-performing continent. They have won 193 games and lost 131 games and have outscored opponents by 138 goals.
- 18 different countries have more than 10 Points.
- 12 different countries have less than 10 Points.
- Other than six countries - Serbia (0.5), Scotland (0.7), Slovenia (0.7), Austria (0.8), Greece (0.8), and Russia (0.9) - every country averages more than 1.0 Points per game.
- 30 countries from UEFA have participated in at least one of the past seven World Cups. Iceland will increase the total to 31 with their qualification for the 2018 World Cup.
- Except for Greece (-15), no country has a double digit negative Goal Differential and half (15) have a positive Goal Differential.
- 24 countries have a Goal Differential between -9 and +8.
- 5 countries - Germany (58), Netherlands (25), Italy (24), Spain (23), and France (20) - account for a +150 Goal Differential.
- 7 countries - Belgium (6), England (7), France (6), Germany (8), Italy (7), Netherlands (6), and Spain (8) - have qualified for six or more of the past eight World Cups.
- 9 countries - Belgium (9), Croatia (7), England (11), France (13), Germany (32), Italy (20), Netherlands (19), Portugal (7), and Spain (19) - have won seven or more games at the World Cup.

- 12 countries have won two or fewer games at the World Cup.
- UEFA qualifying is cutthroat. Germany and Spain are powerhouses who have made every World Cup, but other powerhouses, such as Italy, the Netherlands, and France, have failed to qualify at least once. Some strong countries, such as Belgium and Portugal, have failed to qualify multiple times.

Exhibit O: CONMEBOL Advancement Place from 1990 – 2014

	Italy 1990	USA 1994	France 1998	S. Korea 2002	Germany 2006	S. Africa 2010	Brazil 2014	Russia 2018	Average All WCs	Average Home WCs
CONMEBOL										
Champion	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	0.3	-
Runner-Up	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	0.4	1.0
Third Place	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fourth Place	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	0.3	1.0
QFs	-	-	1	-	2	3	1	-	1.0	1.0
R16	3	1	2	1	1	1	2	-	1.6	2.0
GS	-	2	1	3	1	-	1	-	1.1	1.0
Total	4	4	5	5	4	5	6		4.7	6.0

Advancement Stats

- CONMEBOL has 2 Champions, 3 Runner-Ups, 0 Third Place, and 2 Fourth Place finishes.
 - Champions
 - Brazil (1994)
 - Brazil (2002)
 - Runner-Ups
 - Argentina (1990)
 - Brazil (1998)
 - Argentina (2014)
 - Third Place
 - Fourth Place
 - Uruguay (2010)
 - Brazil (2014)

Home Field Advantage

- CONMEBOL had its best performance in the 2014 World Cup hosted in Brazil, where Argentina finished as Runner-Up, Brazil finished in Fourth Place, Colombia reached the Quarter-Finals, and Chile and Uruguay reached the Round of 16. This was the only time two CONMEBOL teams made it to the Semi-Finals in the past seven World Cups and only the second time five CONMEBOL teams made it out of the Group Stages.

Exhibit P: CONMEBOL Breakdown by Country from 1990 – 2014

Row Labels	Sum of World Cups	Sum of Matches	Sum of Wins	Sum of Losses	Sum of Ties	Sum of GF	Sum of GA	Sum of GD	Sum of Pts
CONMEBOL									
Argentina	7	36	20	8	8	54	29	25	68
Bolivia	1	3	0	2	1	1	4	-3	1
Brazil	7	42	29	7	6	77	39	38	93
Chile	3	12	4	4	4	14	17	-3	16
Colombia	4	15	7	7	1	21	16	5	22
Ecuador	3	10	4	5	1	10	11	-1	13
Paraguay	4	16	4	6	6	14	13	1	18
Uruguay	4	18	6	7	5	21	24	-3	23
CONMEBOL Total	33	152	74	46	32	212	153	59	254

- CONMEBOL has been the second best-performing continent. They have won 74 games and lost 46 games and have outscored opponents by 59 goals
- Brazil and Argentina have been the two dominant nations and account for the majority of the total Wins, Goals For, Goal Differential, and Points.
- Every country, except for Bolivia, has more than 10 Points and averages more than 1.1 Points per game.
- Only eight countries from CONMEBOL have participated in at least one of the past seven World Cups. Peru will increase the total to nine with their qualification for the 2018 World Cup.
- CONMEBOL qualifying is extremely difficult. Brazil and Argentina are powerhouses who consistently make the World Cup, leaving high quality countries like Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, and Uruguay fighting for limited spots.
- Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, and Uruguay each have win-loss records around 50% and Goal Differentials near zero.

Exhibit Q: CONCACAF Advancement Place from 1990 – 2014

	Italy 1990	USA 1994	France 1998	S. Korea 2002	Germany 2006	S. Africa 2010	Brazil 2014	Russia 2018	Average All WCs	Average Home WCs
CONCACAF										
Champion	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Runner-Up	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Third Place	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fourth Place	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
QFs	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	0.3	-
R16	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	-	1.4	2.0
GS	1	-	2	1	3	1	1	-	1.3	-
Total	2	2	3	3	4	3	4		3.0	2.0

Advancement Stats

- CONCACAF has no Champions, Runner-Ups, Third Place, or Fourth Place finishes.
- CONCACAF’s best result is Quarter-Finals, which has happened two times.
 - USA (2002 – QF)
 - Costa Rica (2014 – QF)
- CONCACAF has had at least one country advance from the Group Stages at each of the last seven World Cups. Notably, Mexico has made and lost in six consecutive Round of 16’s.
- The 10 teams to advance out of the Group Stages and lose in Round of 16 are as follows:
 - Costa Rica (1990 – R16)
 - Mexico (1994 – R16)
 - USA (1994 – R16)
 - Mexico (1998 – R16)
 - Mexico (2002 – R16)
 - Mexico (2006 – R16)
 - USA (2010 – R16)
 - Mexico (2010 – R16)
 - Mexico (2014 – R16)
 - USA (2014 – R16)

Home Field Advantage

- CONCACAF had a relatively strong performance in the 1994 World Cup hosted in USA, where USA and Mexico each reached the Round of 16.
- The 2002 and 2014 World Cups were more successful where multiple teams advanced out of the Group Stages with one team reaching the Quarter-Finals.

Exhibit R: CONCACAF Breakdown by Country from 1990 – 2014

Row Labels	Sum of World Cups	Sum of Matches	Sum of Wins	Sum of Losses	Sum of Ties	Sum of GF	Sum of GA	Sum of GD	Sum of Pts	
CONCACAF										
Costa Rica		4	15	5	6	4	17	23	-6	19
Honduras		2	6	0	5	1	1	11	-10	1
Jamaica		1	3	1	2	0	3	9	-6	3
Mexico		6	24	8	8	8	30	28	2	32
Trinidad & Tobago		1	3	0	2	1	0	4	-4	1
USA		7	26	5	15	6	25	41	-16	21
CONCACAF Total		21	77	19	38	20	76	116	-40	77

- CONCACAF has been the third worst-performing continent. They have won 19 games and lost 38 games and the majority of countries have a negative Goal Differential, albeit most are in single digits. Mexico has a +2 Goal Differential.
- Mexico, USA, and Costa Rica are the only countries with more than 3 Points.
- Only six countries from CONCACAF have participated in at least one of the past seven World Cups. Panama will increase the total to seven with their qualification for the 2018 World Cup.
- Honduras, Jamaica, and Trinidad & Tobago have combined for one win in twelve matches and only four goals scored.
- Mexico (8), USA (5), and Costa Rica (5) are the only multi-game winning countries.
- Each country has lost more games than they have won except for Mexico who has won, lost, and tied eight games apiece.
- The countries combined to allow 40 more goals than they scored.

Exhibit S: CAF Advancement Place from 1990 – 2014

	Italy 1990	USA 1994	France 1998	S. Korea 2002	Germany 2006	S. Africa 2010	Brazil 2014	Russia 2018	Average All WCs	Average Home WCs
CAF										
Champion	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Runner-Up	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Third Place	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fourth Place	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
QFs	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	0.4	1.0
R16	-	1	1	-	1	-	2	-	0.7	-
GS	1	2	4	4	4	5	3	-	3.3	5.0
Total	2	3	5	5	5	6	5		4.4	6.0

Advancement Stats

- CAF has no Champions, Runner-Ups, Third Place, or Fourth Place finishes.
- CAF’s best result is Quarter-Finals, which has happened three times.
 - Cameroon (1990 – QF)
 - Senegal (2002 – QF)
 - Ghana (2010 – QF)
- The 5 teams to advance out of the Group Stages and lose in Round of 16 are as follows:
 - Nigeria (1994 – R16)
 - Nigeria (1998 – R16)
 - Ghana (2006 – R16)
 - Algeria (2014 – R16)
 - Nigeria (2014 – R16)

Home Field Advantage

- CAF had one of its best performances in the 2010 World Cup hosted in South Africa, where Ghana reached the Quarter-Finals.
- Arguably, the 2014 World Cup was more successful where two CAF countries advanced out of the Group Stages for the first time ever with Algeria and Nigeria reaching the Round of 16.

Exhibit T: CAF Breakdown by Country from 1990 – 2014

Row Labels	Sum of World Cups	Sum of Matches	Sum of Wins	Sum of Losses	Sum of Ties	Sum of GF	Sum of GA	Sum of GD	Sum of Pts
CAF									
Algeria	2	7	1	4	2	7	9	-2	5
Angola	1	3	0	1	2	1	2	-1	2
Cameroon	6	20	4	12	4	17	42	-25	16
Egypt	1	3	0	1	2	1	2	-1	2
Ghana	3	12	4	5	3	13	16	-3	15
Ivory Coast	3	9	3	5	1	13	14	-1	10
Morocco	2	6	1	4	1	7	10	-3	4
Nigeria	5	18	5	10	3	20	26	-6	18
Senegal	1	5	2	1	2	7	6	1	8
South Africa	3	9	2	3	4	11	16	-5	10
Togo	1	3	0	3	0	1	6	-5	0
Tunisia	3	9	0	6	3	5	15	-10	3
CAF Total	31	104	22	55	27	103	164	-61	93

- CAF has been the second worst-performing continent. They have won 22 games and lost 55 games and every country except Senegal (+1) has a negative Goal Differential, albeit most are in single digits.
- Nigeria, Cameroon, and Ghana are the only countries with more than 10 Points. South Africa and Ivory Coast have each earned 10 Points.
- Togo participated in only one World Cup where they lost all three matches with a combined -5 Goal Differential.
- Only Nigeria (5), Cameroon (4), Ghana (4), and Ivory Coast (3) have won more than two games, and no country has won more than five games.
- No country has a winning record at the World Cup except for Senegal.
- Each country has lost more games than they have won except for Senegal who only participated in 2002 and made the Quarter-Finals. The other three countries that participated in only one World Cup did not advance from the Group Stages and did not win a single match, suggesting Senegal’s run is an outlier.
- Nigeria (6/8), Cameroon (6/8), and Tunisia (4/8) are the only countries to qualify for at least half of the World Cups, though their performance has been poor. Cameroon has the worst Goal Differential of any country (-25) and Tunisia has yet to win a game.
- The countries combined to allow 61 more goals than they scored.

Exhibit U: AFC Advancement Place from 1990 – 2014

	Italy 1990	USA 1994	France 1998	S. Korea 2002	Germany 2006	S. Africa 2010	Brazil 2014	Russia 2018	Average All WCs	Average Home WCs
AFC										
Champion	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Runner-Up	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Third Place	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fourth Place	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	0.1	1.0
QFs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
R16	-	1	-	1	1	2	-	-	0.7	1.0
GS	2	1	4	2	4	2	4	-	2.7	2.0
Total	2	2	4	4	5	4	4		3.6	4.0

Advancement Stats

- AFC has no Champions, Runner-Ups, or Third Place finishes
- AFC’s best result is Fourth Place with South Korea, as co-host nation, in 2002.
- Besides South Korea (2002), no AFC team has advanced to the Quarter-Finals.
- The 6 teams to advance out of the Group Stages are as follows:
 - Saudi Arabia (1994 – R16)
 - Japan (2002 – R16)
 - South Korea (2002 – 4P)
 - Australia (2006 – R16)
 - Japan (2010 – R16)
 - South Korea (2010 – R16)

Home Field Advantage

- AFC had its best performance in the 2002 World Cup hosted in South Korea and Japan, where both of those nations advanced (South Korea to 4P and Japan to R16, respectively) out of the Group Stages.
- Curiously, China and Saudi Arabia, the other two AFC nations, finished 31st and 32nd in 2002.

Exhibit V: AFC Breakdown by Country from 1990 – 2014

Row Labels	Sum of World Cups	Sum of Matches	Sum of Wins	Sum of Losses	Sum of Ties	Sum of GF	Sum of GA	Sum of GD	Sum of Pts
AFC									
Australia	3	10	2	6	2	11	21	-10	8
China	1	3	0	3	0	0	9	-9	0
Iran	3	9	1	6	2	5	14	-9	5
Japan	5	17	4	9	4	14	22	-8	16
North Korea	1	3	0	3	0	1	12	-11	0
Saudi Arabia	4	13	2	9	2	9	32	-23	8
South Korea	7	26	5	13	8	27	44	-17	23
UAE	1	3	0	3	0	2	11	-9	0
AFC Total	25	84	14	52	18	69	165	-96	60

- AFC has been the worst-performing continent. They have won 14 games and lost 52 games and every country has a negative Goal Differential.
- South Korea and Japan are the only countries with more than 10 Points, and no country averages more than 0.9 Points per match.
- Three countries (China, North Korea, and UAE) participated in only one World Cup where they lost all three matches with a combined -29 Goal Differential. Yikes!

Row Labels	Sum of World Cups	Sum of Matches	Sum of Wins	Sum of Losses	Sum of Ties	Sum of GF	Sum of GA	Sum of GD	Sum of Pts
AFC									
Australia	3	10	2	6	2	11	21	-10	8
Iran	3	9	1	6	2	5	14	-9	5
Japan	5	17	4	9	4	14	22	-8	16
Saudi Arabia	4	13	2	9	2	9	32	-23	8
South Korea	7	26	5	13	8	27	44	-17	23
AFC Total	22	75	14	43	18	66	133	-67	60

- Even removing these three outliers (see above), the results are dismal.
- Only Japan (4) and South Korea (5) have won more than two games, and no country has won more than five games.
- Each country has lost more than twice as many games as they have won.
- The countries combined to allow (133) more than twice as many goals than they have scored (66). Each country has a given up at least eight more goals than they have scored.
- South Korea has qualified for eight consecutive World Cups and Japan has qualified for six consecutive World Cups.

Part IV – World Cup Analysis: Trends & Insights on Performances by Confederation and Country

The table below ranks all 208 individual country performances over the last seven World Cups based on the following criteria - Goal Differential, Total Points, and Place.

Exhibit W: Country Performance Ranking from 1990 – 2014

#	Country	Confederation	World Cup	Location	Wins	Losses	Ties	GF	GA	GD	Pts	Place	Ranking		
													GD	Pts	Place
1	Brazil	CONMEBOL	2002	S. Korea	7	-	-	18	4	14	21	1	1	1	1
2	Germany	UEFA	2014	Brazil	6	-	1	18	4	14	19	1	1	2	1
3	France	UEFA	1998	France	6	-	1	15	2	13	19	1	3	2	1
4	Germany	UEFA	1990	Italy	5	-	2	15	5	10	17	1	7	7	1
5	Italy	UEFA	2006	Germany	5	-	2	12	2	10	17	1	7	7	1
6	Brazil	CONMEBOL	1994	USA	5	-	2	11	3	8	17	1	9	7	1
7	Germany	UEFA	2002	S. Korea	5	1	1	14	3	11	16	2	4	11	8
8	Spain	UEFA	2010	S. Africa	6	1	-	8	2	6	18	1	17	5	1
9	Italy	UEFA	1990	Italy	6	-	1	10	2	8	19	3	9	2	15
10	Netherlands	UEFA	2014	Brazil	5	-	2	15	4	11	17	3	4	7	15
11	Netherlands	UEFA	2010	S. Africa	6	1	-	12	6	6	18	2	17	5	8
12	Germany	UEFA	2010	S. Africa	5	2	-	16	5	11	15	3	4	14	15
13	Germany	UEFA	2006	Germany	5	1	1	14	6	8	16	3	9	11	15
14	France	UEFA	2006	Germany	4	-	3	9	3	6	15	2	17	14	8
15	Croatia	UEFA	1998	France	5	2	-	11	5	6	15	3	17	14	15
16	Argentina	CONMEBOL	2014	Brazil	5	1	1	8	4	4	16	2	29	11	8
17	Sweden	UEFA	1994	USA	3	1	3	15	8	7	12	3	15	21	15
18	Brazil	CONMEBOL	1998	France	4	2	1	14	10	4	13	2	29	18	8
19	Brazil	CONMEBOL	2006	Germany	4	1	-	10	2	8	12	5	9	21	29
20	Colombia	CONMEBOL	2014	Brazil	4	1	-	12	4	8	12	5	9	21	29
21	Netherlands	UEFA	1998	France	3	1	3	13	7	6	12	4	17	21	22
22	Italy	UEFA	1994	USA	4	1	2	8	5	3	14	2	37	17	8
23	Turkey	UEFA	2002	S. Korea	4	2	1	10	6	4	13	3	29	18	15
24	Argentina	CONMEBOL	2006	Germany	3	-	2	11	3	8	11	6	9	28	36
25	Argentina	CONMEBOL	2010	S. Africa	4	1	-	10	6	4	12	5	29	21	29
26	Italy	UEFA	1998	France	3	-	2	8	3	5	11	5	24	28	29
27	Spain	UEFA	2002	S. Korea	3	-	2	10	5	5	11	5	24	28	29
28	Portugal	UEFA	2006	Germany	4	2	1	7	5	2	13	4	45	18	22
29	Uruguay	CONMEBOL	2010	S. Africa	3	2	2	11	8	3	11	4	37	28	22
30	Argentina	CONMEBOL	1998	France	3	1	1	10	4	6	10	6	17	35	36
31	England	UEFA	1990	Italy	3	1	3	8	6	2	12	4	45	21	22
32	France	UEFA	2014	Brazil	3	1	1	10	3	7	10	7	15	35	43
33	Belgium	UEFA	2014	Brazil	4	1	-	6	3	3	12	6	37	21	36
34	Brazil	CONMEBOL	2010	S. Africa	3	1	1	9	4	5	10	6	24	35	36
35	South Korea	AFC	2002	S. Korea	3	2	2	8	6	2	11	4	45	28	22

#	Country	Confederation	World Cup	Location	Wins	Losses	Ties	GF	GA	GD	Pts	Place	Ranking		
													GD	Pts	Place
36	England	UEFA	2006	Germany	3	-	2	6	2	4	11	7	29	28	43
37	Czechoslovakia	UEFA	1990	Italy	3	2	-	10	5	5	9	6	24	43	36
38	Germany	UEFA	1994	USA	3	1	1	9	7	2	10	5	45	35	29
39	Yugoslavia	UEFA	1990	Italy	3	1	1	8	6	2	10	5	45	35	29
40	Argentina	CONMEBOL	1990	Italy	2	2	3	5	4	1	9	2	62	43	8
41	Germany	UEFA	1998	France	3	1	1	8	6	2	10	7	45	35	43
42	England	UEFA	2002	S. Korea	2	1	2	6	3	3	8	6	37	50	36
43	Spain	UEFA	2006	Germany	3	1	-	9	4	5	9	9	24	43	57
44	Spain	UEFA	1994	USA	2	1	2	10	6	4	8	8	29	50	50
45	Costa Rica	CONCACAF	2014	Brazil	2	-	3	5	2	3	9	8	37	43	50
46	Netherlands	UEFA	1994	USA	3	2	-	8	6	2	9	7	45	43	43
47	Romania	UEFA	1994	USA	3	1	1	10	9	1	10	6	62	35	36
48	Switzerland	UEFA	2006	Germany	2	-	2	4	-	4	8	10	29	50	64
49	Brazil	CONMEBOL	1990	Italy	3	1	-	4	2	2	9	9	45	43	57
50	England	UEFA	1998	France	2	1	1	7	4	3	7	9	37	55	57
51	Denmark	UEFA	1998	France	2	2	1	9	7	2	7	8	45	55	50
52	Ghana	CAF	2010	S. Africa	2	1	2	5	4	1	8	7	62	50	43
53	Senegal	CAF	2002	S. Korea	2	1	2	7	6	1	8	7	62	50	43
54	Chile	CONMEBOL	2014	Brazil	2	1	1	6	4	2	7	9	45	55	57
55	Japan	AFC	2002	S. Korea	2	1	1	5	3	2	7	9	45	55	57
56	Japan	AFC	2010	S. Africa	2	1	1	4	2	2	7	9	45	55	57
57	Bulgaria	UEFA	1994	USA	3	3	1	10	11	(1)	10	4	103	35	22
58	Nigeria	CAF	1994	USA	2	2	-	7	4	3	6	9	37	69	57
59	Spain	UEFA	1990	Italy	2	1	1	6	4	2	7	10	45	55	64
60	Mexico	CONCACAF	2014	Brazil	2	1	1	5	3	2	7	10	45	55	64
61	Portugal	UEFA	2010	S. Africa	1	1	2	7	1	6	5	11	17	83	71
62	Argentina	CONMEBOL	1994	USA	2	2	-	8	6	2	6	10	45	69	64
63	Paraguay	CONMEBOL	2010	S. Africa	1	1	3	3	2	1	6	8	62	69	50
64	USA	CONCACAF	2002	S. Korea	2	2	1	7	7	0	7	8	76	55	50
65	Yugoslavia	UEFA	1998	France	2	1	1	5	4	1	7	10	62	55	64
66	Ireland	UEFA	2002	S. Korea	1	-	3	6	3	3	6	12	37	69	78
67	Belgium	UEFA	1990	Italy	2	2	-	6	4	2	6	11	45	69	71
68	Netherlands	UEFA	2006	Germany	2	1	1	3	2	1	7	11	62	55	71
69	Romania	UEFA	1998	France	2	1	1	4	3	1	7	11	62	55	71
70	Denmark	UEFA	2002	S. Korea	2	1	1	5	5	0	7	10	76	55	64
71	Mexico	CONCACAF	2002	S. Korea	2	1	1	4	4	0	7	11	76	55	71
72	Brazil	CONMEBOL	2014	Brazil	3	2	2	11	14	(3)	11	4	157	28	22
73	Ecuador	CONMEBOL	2006	Germany	2	2	-	5	4	1	6	12	62	69	78

#	Country	Confederation	World Cup	Location	Wins	Losses	Ties	GF	GA	GD	Pts	Place	Ranking		
													GD	Pts	Place
74	Belgium	UEFA	1994	USA	2	2	-	4	4	0	6	11	76	69	71
75	Switzerland	UEFA	2014	Brazil	2	2	-	7	7	0	6	11	76	69	71
76	Cameroon	CAF	1990	Italy	3	2	-	7	9	(2)	9	7	134	43	43
77	Romania	UEFA	1990	Italy	1	1	2	4	3	1	5	12	62	83	78
78	Mexico	CONCACAF	1998	France	1	1	2	8	7	1	5	13	62	83	85
79	Spain	UEFA	1998	France	1	1	1	8	4	4	4	17	29	95	113
80	Paraguay	CONMEBOL	1998	France	1	1	2	3	2	1	5	14	62	83	92
81	USA	CONCACAF	2010	S. Africa	1	1	2	5	5	0	5	12	76	83	78
82	Ukraine	UEFA	2006	Germany	2	2	1	5	7	(2)	7	8	134	55	50
83	Mexico	CONCACAF	1994	USA	1	1	2	4	4	0	5	13	76	83	85
84	Sweden	UEFA	2002	S. Korea	1	1	2	5	5	0	5	13	76	83	85
85	Ireland	UEFA	1990	Italy	-	1	4	2	3	(1)	4	8	103	95	50
86	Saudi Arabia	AFC	1994	USA	2	2	-	5	6	(1)	6	12	103	69	78
87	Norway	UEFA	1998	France	1	1	2	5	5	0	5	15	76	83	99
88	Colombia	CONMEBOL	1990	Italy	1	2	1	4	4	0	4	14	76	95	92
89	Algeria	CAF	2014	Brazil	1	2	1	7	7	0	4	14	76	95	92
90	Chile	CONMEBOL	2010	S. Africa	2	2	-	3	5	(2)	6	10	134	69	64
91	Italy	UEFA	2002	S. Korea	1	2	1	5	5	0	4	15	76	95	99
92	Mexico	CONCACAF	2006	Germany	1	2	1	5	5	0	4	15	76	95	99
93	Ivory Coast	CAF	2010	S. Africa	1	1	1	4	3	1	4	17	62	95	113
94	Belgium	UEFA	2002	S. Korea	1	1	2	6	7	(1)	5	14	103	83	92
95	Sweden	UEFA	2006	Germany	1	1	2	3	4	(1)	5	14	103	83	92
96	Uruguay	CONMEBOL	2014	Brazil	2	2	-	4	6	(2)	6	12	134	69	78
97	Ecuador	CONMEBOL	2014	Brazil	1	1	1	3	3	0	4	17	76	95	113
98	South Africa	CAF	2002	S. Korea	1	1	1	5	5	0	4	17	76	95	113
99	Norway	UEFA	1994	USA	1	1	1	1	1	0	4	17	76	95	113
100	Costa Rica	CONCACAF	1990	Italy	2	2	-	4	6	(2)	6	13	134	69	85
101	Ghana	CAF	2006	Germany	2	2	-	4	6	(2)	6	13	134	69	85
102	Mexico	CONCACAF	2010	S. Africa	1	2	1	4	5	(1)	4	14	103	95	92
103	USA	CONCACAF	1994	USA	1	2	1	3	4	(1)	4	14	103	95	92
104	Argentina	CONMEBOL	2002	S. Korea	1	1	1	2	2	0	4	18	76	95	120
105	Morocco	CAF	1998	France	1	1	1	5	5	0	4	18	76	95	120
106	Slovenia	UEFA	2010	S. Africa	1	1	1	3	3	0	4	18	76	95	120
107	USA	CONCACAF	2014	Brazil	1	2	1	5	6	(1)	4	15	103	95	99
108	Switzerland	UEFA	2010	S. Africa	1	1	1	1	1	0	4	19	76	95	128
109	England	UEFA	2010	S. Africa	1	1	2	3	5	(2)	5	13	134	83	85
110	Greece	UEFA	2014	Brazil	1	1	2	3	5	(2)	5	13	134	83	85
111	Paraguay	CONMEBOL	2002	S. Korea	1	2	1	6	7	(1)	4	16	103	95	106
112	Nigeria	CAF	1998	France	2	2	-	6	9	(3)	6	12	157	69	78
113	Australia	AFC	2006	Germany	1	2	1	5	6	(1)	4	16	103	95	106
114	Russia	UEFA	1994	USA	1	2	-	7	6	1	3	18	62	126	120
115	South Korea	AFC	2006	Germany	1	1	1	3	4	(1)	4	17	103	95	113

#	Country	Confederation	World Cup	Location	Wins	Losses	Ties	GF	GA	GD	Pts	Place	Ranking		
													GD	Pts	Place
116	Portugal	UEFA	2002	S. Korea	1	2	-	6	4	2	3	21	45	126	141
117	Russia	UEFA	1990	Italy	1	2	-	4	4	0	3	17	76	126	113
118	Paraguay	CONMEBOL	2006	Germany	1	2	-	2	2	0	3	18	76	126	120
119	Costa Rica	CONCACAF	2002	S. Korea	1	1	1	5	6	(1)	4	19	103	95	128
120	Netherlands	UEFA	1990	Italy	-	1	3	3	4	(1)	3	15	103	126	99
121	Switzerland	UEFA	1994	USA	1	2	1	5	7	(2)	4	15	134	95	99
122	South Korea	AFC	2010	S. Africa	1	2	1	6	8	(2)	4	15	134	95	99
123	Belgium	UEFA	1998	France	-	-	3	3	3	0	3	19	76	126	128
124	Croatia	UEFA	2014	Brazil	1	2	-	6	6	0	3	19	76	126	128
125	Cameroon	CAF	2002	S. Korea	1	1	1	2	3	(1)	4	20	103	95	134
126	Ireland	UEFA	1994	USA	1	2	1	2	4	(2)	4	16	134	95	106
127	Nigeria	CAF	2014	Brazil	1	2	1	3	5	(2)	4	16	134	95	106
128	Slovakia	UEFA	2010	S. Africa	1	2	1	5	7	(2)	4	16	134	95	106
129	Bosnia	UEFA	2014	Brazil	1	2	-	4	4	0	3	20	76	126	134
130	Austria	UEFA	1990	Italy	1	2	-	2	3	(1)	3	18	103	126	120
131	Scotland	UEFA	1990	Italy	1	2	-	2	3	(1)	3	18	103	126	120
132	Russia	UEFA	2002	S. Korea	1	2	-	4	4	0	3	22	76	126	148
133	New Zealand	OFC	2010	S. Africa	-	-	3	2	2	0	3	22	76	126	148
134	Colombia	CONMEBOL	1994	USA	1	2	-	4	5	(1)	3	19	103	126	128
135	Ivory Coast	CAF	2006	Germany	1	2	-	5	6	(1)	3	19	103	126	128
136	Uruguay	CONMEBOL	1990	Italy	1	2	1	2	5	(3)	4	16	157	95	106
137	South Africa	CAF	2010	S. Africa	1	1	1	3	5	(2)	4	20	134	95	134
138	Czech Republic	UEFA	2006	Germany	1	2	-	3	4	(1)	3	20	103	126	134
139	Ivory Coast	CAF	2014	Brazil	1	2	-	4	5	(1)	3	21	103	126	141
140	Portugal	UEFA	2014	Brazil	1	1	1	4	7	(3)	4	18	157	95	120
141	Italy	UEFA	2014	Brazil	1	2	-	2	3	(1)	3	22	103	126	148
142	Croatia	UEFA	2002	S. Korea	1	2	-	2	3	(1)	3	23	103	126	155
143	Serbia	UEFA	2010	S. Africa	1	2	-	2	3	(1)	3	23	103	126	155
144	Chile	CONMEBOL	1998	France	-	1	3	5	8	(3)	3	16	157	126	106
145	South Korea	AFC	1994	USA	-	1	2	4	5	(1)	2	20	103	155	134
146	Egypt	CAF	1990	Italy	-	1	2	1	2	(1)	2	20	103	155	134
147	Australia	AFC	2010	S. Africa	1	1	1	3	6	(3)	4	21	157	95	141
148	Iran	AFC	1998	France	1	2	-	2	4	(2)	3	20	134	126	134
149	Colombia	CONMEBOL	1998	France	1	2	-	1	3	(2)	3	21	134	126	141
150	Poland	UEFA	2006	Germany	1	2	-	2	4	(2)	3	21	134	126	141
151	Croatia	UEFA	2006	Germany	-	1	2	2	3	(1)	2	22	103	155	148
152	Austria	UEFA	1998	France	-	1	2	3	4	(1)	2	23	103	155	155
153	Angola	CAF	2006	Germany	-	1	2	1	2	(1)	2	23	103	155	155
154	Russia	UEFA	2014	Brazil	-	1	2	2	3	(1)	2	24	103	155	162
155	Ecuador	CONMEBOL	2002	S. Korea	1	2	-	2	4	(2)	3	24	134	126	162
156	Italy	UEFA	2010	S. Africa	-	1	2	4	5	(1)	2	26	103	155	175
157	Uruguay	CONMEBOL	2002	S. Korea	-	1	2	4	5	(1)	2	26	103	155	175
158	Spain	UEFA	2014	Brazil	1	2	-	4	7	(3)	3	23	157	126	155
159	Denmark	UEFA	2010	S. Africa	1	2	-	3	6	(3)	3	24	157	126	162
160	Greece	UEFA	2010	S. Africa	1	2	-	2	5	(3)	3	25	157	126	169
161	Bolivia	CONMEBOL	1994	USA	-	2	1	1	4	(3)	1	21	157	165	141
162	Ghana	CAF	2014	Brazil	-	2	1	4	6	(2)	1	25	134	165	169
163	Jamaica	CONCACAF	1998	France	1	2	-	3	9	(6)	3	22	194	126	148
164	England	UEFA	2014	Brazil	-	2	1	2	4	(2)	1	26	134	165	175
165	South Africa	CAF	1998	France	-	1	2	3	6	(3)	2	24	157	155	162
166	Poland	UEFA	2002	S. Korea	1	2	-	3	7	(4)	3	25	180	126	169

#	Country	Confederation	World Cup	Location	Wins	Losses	Ties	GF	GA	GD	Pts	Place	Ranking		
													GD	Pts	Place
167	Nigeria	CAF	2002	S. Korea	-	2	1	1	3	(2)	1	27	134	165	179
168	Nigeria	CAF	2010	S. Africa	-	2	1	3	5	(2)	1	27	134	165	179
169	Cameroon	CAF	1998	France	-	1	2	2	5	(3)	2	25	157	155	169
170	Algeria	CAF	2010	S. Africa	-	2	1	-	2	(2)	1	28	134	165	184
171	Tunisia	CAF	2006	Germany	-	2	1	3	6	(3)	1	24	157	165	162
172	Sweden	UEFA	1990	Italy	-	3	-	3	6	(3)	-	21	157	190	141
173	Tunisia	CAF	1998	France	-	2	1	1	4	(3)	1	26	157	165	175
174	South Korea	AFC	2014	Brazil	-	2	1	3	6	(3)	1	27	157	165	179
175	Morocco	CAF	1994	USA	-	3	-	2	5	(3)	-	23	157	190	155
176	France	UEFA	2002	S. Korea	-	2	1	-	3	(3)	1	28	157	165	184
177	Iran	AFC	2014	Brazil	-	2	1	1	4	(3)	1	28	157	165	184
178	France	UEFA	2010	S. Africa	-	2	1	1	4	(3)	1	29	157	165	190
179	USA	CONCACAF	2006	Germany	-	2	1	2	6	(4)	1	25	180	165	169
180	Cameroon	CAF	1994	USA	-	2	1	3	11	(8)	1	22	201	165	148
181	Iran	AFC	2006	Germany	-	2	1	2	6	(4)	1	25	180	165	169
182	Honduras	CONCACAF	2010	S. Africa	-	2	1	-	3	(3)	1	30	157	165	194
183	Scotland	UEFA	1998	France	-	2	1	2	6	(4)	1	27	180	165	179
184	Trinidad & Tobago	CONCACAF	2006	Germany	-	2	1	-	4	(4)	1	27	180	165	179
185	South Korea	AFC	1990	Italy	-	3	-	1	6	(5)	-	22	188	190	148
186	Japan	AFC	2014	Brazil	-	2	1	2	6	(4)	1	29	180	165	190
187	Tunisia	CAF	2002	S. Korea	-	2	1	1	5	(4)	1	29	180	165	190
188	Japan	AFC	2006	Germany	-	2	1	2	7	(5)	1	28	188	165	184
189	Saudi Arabia	AFC	1998	France	-	2	1	2	7	(5)	1	28	188	165	184
190	Saudi Arabia	AFC	2006	Germany	-	2	1	2	7	(5)	1	28	188	165	184
191	USA	CONCACAF	1990	Italy	-	3	-	2	8	(6)	-	23	194	190	155
192	Japan	AFC	1998	France	-	3	-	1	4	(3)	-	31	157	190	199
193	Cameroon	CAF	2010	S. Africa	-	3	-	2	5	(3)	-	31	157	190	199
194	Bulgaria	UEFA	1998	France	-	2	1	1	7	(6)	1	29	194	165	190
195	UAE	AFC	1990	Italy	-	3	-	2	11	(9)	-	24	204	190	162
196	South Korea	AFC	1998	France	-	2	1	2	9	(7)	1	30	199	165	194
197	Greece	UEFA	1994	USA	-	3	-	-	10	(10)	-	24	206	190	162
198	Slovenia	UEFA	2002	S. Korea	-	3	-	2	7	(5)	-	30	188	190	194
199	Togo	CAF	2006	Germany	-	3	-	1	6	(5)	-	30	188	190	194
200	USA	CONCACAF	1998	France	-	3	-	1	5	(4)	-	32	180	190	204
201	Australia	AFC	2014	Brazil	-	3	-	3	9	(6)	-	30	194	190	194
202	Costa Rica	CONCACAF	2006	Germany	-	3	-	3	9	(6)	-	31	194	190	199
203	Honduras	CONCACAF	2014	Brazil	-	3	-	1	8	(7)	-	31	199	190	199
204	China	AFC	2002	S. Korea	-	3	-	-	9	(9)	-	31	204	190	199
205	Cameroon	CAF	2014	Brazil	-	3	-	1	9	(8)	-	32	201	190	204
206	Serbia	UEFA	2006	Germany	-	3	-	2	10	(8)	-	32	201	190	204
207	North Korea	AFC	2010	S. Africa	-	3	-	1	12	(11)	-	32	207	190	204
208	Saudi Arabia	AFC	2002	S. Korea	-	3	-	-	12	(12)	-	32	208	190	204

The list above ranks the individual country performances at the World Cup in order from best to worst. The notes that follow highlight various takeaways.

Dominant, Nearly Flawless Performances

- Brazil (2002), Germany (2014), and France (1998) had the three best performances ever. They each went undefeated with at least six wins and +13 Goal Differential.

Notable Performances

- Germany (2002) is the first non-Champion performance (#7) mainly due to its +11 Goal Differential, which is tied for fourth best.
- Spain (2010) is the lowest rated Champion performance (#8) due to its +6 Goal Differential. They only scored eight goals the entire tournament.
- Brazil (2006) and Colombia (2014) each had the best non-Semi-Finalist performances (#19 and #20) where they won four games, finished in fifth place, and had a +8 Goal Differential.
- The top 34 performances were all from UEFA or CONMEBOL countries.
- The first non-traditional countries appear among performances #15-23 related to uncharacteristically deep runs - Croatia (1998), Sweden (1994), Colombia (2014), and Turkey (2002).
- Quarter-Final runs from powerhouse nations appear high on the list - Argentina (2006, 2010, 1998), Italy (1998), Spain (2002), and France (2014).
- Argentina (1990) is the lowest Runner-Up finish with only two wins and a +1 Goal Differential. They won two of their knockout round games on penalty kicks, which are recorded as ties.
- Spain (2006) has the best non-Quarter-Finalist performance (#43) where they won three games, finished in ninth place, and had a +5 Goal Differential. In hindsight, this performance was a harbinger of the historic three-peat that followed in the Euros ('08 and '12) and World Cup ('10).
- Costa Rica (2014) is the highest non-UEFA, non-CONMEBOL performance (#45) other than South Korea (2002), who benefited from being the co-host nation.
- Bulgaria (1994) is the lowest Semi-Final finish with only three wins and a negative (-1) Goal Differential.
- Every Mexico performance, all Round of 16 exits, occurs within #60-102.

Country Performance Trends

- Germany
 - Won 5 or more games and reached at least the SF in 5 of 7 World Cups
 - Won 3 games and reached QF in both 1994 and 1998 (prior to [Das Reboot](#))
 - Scored 14 or more goals in 5 of 7 World Cups
 - Scored 8 and 9, respectively, in 1994 and 1998
 - Lost 1 game or less in 6 of 7 World Cups
 - 2 losses and 3rd place in 2010
 - 5 of the Top 9 Goal Differential performances
 - At least 10 Points in all 7 World Cups
- Brazil
 - Won 3 or more games in all 7 World Cups
 - Lost 1 game or less in 5 of 7 World Cups
 - 2 losses and 2nd place in 1998 and 2 losses and 4th place in 2014
 - Scored 10 goals or more in 5 of 7 World Cups
 - Scored 4 and 9, respectively, in 1990 and 2010
 - At least 9 Points in all 7 World Cups
- Italy
 - Only won more than 1 game once since 1998

- Won 5 games in their World Cup victory in 2006
- Double digits Points in 1990, 1994, 1998 and 2006 World Cups
 - 4 Points or less in 2002, 2010, and 2014 World Cups
- Lost 1 game or less in 5 of 7 World Cups
 - 2 losses and 15th place in 2002 and 2 losses and 22nd place in 2014
- Conceded 5 or less goals in all 7 World Cups
- Argentina
 - Only won more than 3 games in 2 World Cups (2010 and 2014)
 - Lost 1 game or less in 5 of 7 World Cups
 - 2 losses and 2nd place in 1990 and 2 losses and 10th place in 1994
 - Positive Goal Differential in 6 of 7 World Cups
- Netherlands
 - Won 3 or more games in 4 of 6 World Cups
 - Lost 1 game or less in 5 of 6 World Cups
 - 2 losses and 7th place in 1994
- Spain
 - Lost 1 game or less in 6 of 7 World Cups
 - 2 losses and 23rd place in 2014
 - Positive Goal Differential in 6 of 7 World Cups
- France
 - Crazy back-and-forth streak from 1998 – 2014
 - 6 wins, 0 wins, 4 wins, 0 wins, and 3 wins
 - 15 goals, 0 goals, 9 goals, 1 goals, and 10 goals
 - Goal Differential of +13, -3, +6, -3, and +7
 - Points of 19, 1, 15, 1, and 10
 - At least 1 tie in all 5 World Cups
 - Conceded 4 goals or less in all 5 World Cups
- England
 - Declining performance from 1990 – 2014 (missed 1994)
 - 3 wins, 2 wins, 2 wins, 3 wins, 1 win, and 0 wins
 - 8 goals, 7 goals, 6 goals, 6 goals, 3 goals, and 2 goals
 - Goal Differential of +2, +3, +3, +4, -2, and -2
 - Points of 12, 7, 8, 11, 5, and 1
 - Lost 1 game or less in 5 of 6 World Cups
 - 2 losses and 26th place in 2014
 - At least 1 tie in all 6 World Cups (including two or more in 4 of 6 World Cups)
- Mexico
 - 1-2 wins, 1-2 losses, and 1-2 ties in all 6 World Cups
 - Goal Differential between -1 and +2 in all 6 World Cups
 - 4-7 Points in all 6 World Cups
- Paraguay
 - Exactly 1 win in all 4 World Cups
 - -1 to +1 Goal Differential in all 4 World Cups
- Russia

- Never won more than 1 game or earned more than 3 Points at a World Cup
- Nigeria
 - Exactly two losses in all 5 World Cups
- South Korea
 - Besides its 4th place finish in 2002, has only won 2 games in 6 World Cups and earned 4 or less Points in these 6 World Cups
 - Lost 2 games or more in 5 of 7 World Cups
- USA
 - Won 1 game or less in 6 of 7 World Cups
 - Lost 2 games or more in 6 of 7 World Cups
 - No positive Goal Differential in any World Cup (0 GD in 2002 and 2010)
- Cameroon
 - Only scored more than 3 goals in 1 of 6 World Cups
 - Conceded 5 or more goals in 5 of 6 World Cups

Other Performance Observations

- Wide Range of Performance
 - France - 28 place Range and 14.0 Standard Deviation
 - Finished 1st in 1998 and 29th in 2010
 - Japan - 22 place Range and 11.2 Standard Deviation
 - Finished 9th in 2002 and 2010 and 31st in 1998
 - Italy - 25 place Range and 10.3 Standard Deviation
 - Finished 1st in 2006 and 26th in 2010
 - Costa Rica - 23 place Range and 9.9 Standard Deviation
 - Finished 8th in 2014 and 31st in 2006
 - Croatia - 20 place Range and 9.3 Standard Deviation
 - Finished 3rd in 1998 and 23rd in 2002
- Narrow Range of Performance
 - Mexico - 5 place Range and 1.9 Standard Deviation
 - Finished 10th in 2014 and 15th in 2006
 - Ivory Coast - 4 place Range and 2.0 Standard Deviation
 - Finished 17th in 2010 and 21st in 2014
 - Germany - 6 place Range and 2.2 Standard Deviation
 - Finished 1st in 1990 and 2014 and 7th in 1998
 - Tunisia - 5 place Range and 2.5 Standard Deviation
 - Finished 24th in 2006 and 29th in 2002
 - Brazil - 8 place Range and 2.9 Standard Deviation
 - Finished 1st in 1994 and 2002 and 9th in 1990
- Multiple Performances Finishing in the Bottom Eight Teams
 - 3
 - Saudi Arabia (1998, 2002, 2006)
 - Cameroon (1998, 2010, 2014)
 - Japan (1998, 2006, 2014)
 - 2

- Tunisia (1998, 2002)
- Nigeria (2002, 2010)
- France (2002, 2010)
- Iran (2006, 2014)
- South Korea (1998, 2014)
- USA (1998, 2006)

Exhibit X: Performance Range by Confederation from 1990 – 2014

	# 1 - 50	# 51 - 100	# 101 - 150	# 151 - 200	# 201 - 208	Total
UEFA	35	22	23	16	1	97
CONMEBOL	13	10	7	3	-	33
CONCACAF	1	8	4	6	2	21
CAF	-	7	9	14	1	31
AFC	1	3	6	11	4	25
OFC	-	-	1	-	-	1
Total	50	50	50	50	8	208

	# 1 - 50	# 51 - 100	# 101 - 150	# 151 - 200	# 201 - 208	Total
UEFA	36%	23%	24%	16%	1%	100%
CONMEBOL	39%	30%	21%	9%	-	100%
CONCACAF	5%	38%	19%	29%	10%	100%
CAF	-	23%	29%	45%	3%	100%
AFC	4%	12%	24%	44%	16%	100%
OFC	-	-	100%	-	-	100%

The tables above show the number of occurrences and percentage of confederation total of individual country performances at the World Cup in quadrants of fifty. A breakdown by confederation follows.

UEFA

- 35 of the Top 50 (70%) performances
- 57 of the Top 100 (57%) performances
- 82% of all performances in the Top 150

CONMEBOL

- 39% of all performances in Top 50
- 70% of all performances in Top 100
- 91% of all performances in the Top 150
- Only 3 of the Bottom 58 (5%) performances

CONCACAF

- 1 of the Top 50 (2%) performances
- 86% of all performances in 51-200 range
- 2 of the Bottom 8 (25%) performances

CAF

- 7 of the Top 100 (7%) performances
- 97% of all performances in 51-200 range
- 1 of the Bottom 8 (13%) performances

AFC

- 4 of the Top 100 (4%) performances
- 60% of all performances in the 151-208 range
- 4 of the Bottom 8 (50%) performances

The following section will discuss various trends, insights, and takeaways from the World Cup analyses conducted.

Confederation Performance on Home Continent from 1990 – 2014

- UEFA and CONMEBOL dominate World Cups on their home continents
 - UEFA
 - 1990, 1998, and 2006 all won by UEFA teams.
 - 1990, 1998, and 2006 all at least 3/4 Semi-Finalists by UEFA teams (4/4 in 2006).
 - 10 UEFA teams advanced to R16 in each. 6 UEFA teams advanced to QF in each.
 - 3 or fewer non-UEFA or non-CONMEBOL teams advanced out of Group stages. Only one reached the QF (Cameroon in 1990).
 - CONMEBOL
 - 5 of 6 teams advanced out of Group Stages and Ecuador, the lone exception, was top finisher amongst non-advanced teams.
 - Second time having 5 teams advance (the other is 2010) to knockout rounds.
- Non-UEFA, Non-CONCACAF World Cups (so called “neutral sites”) experience more parity
 - 1994 (CONCACAF hosted)
 - 4 non-UEFA and non-CONMEBOL teams advanced out of Group Stages.
 - 2 CONCACAF (R16, R16), 1 CAF (R16), and 1 AFC (R16)
 - 2002 (AFC hosted)
 - 5 non-UEFA and non-CONMEBOL teams advanced out of Group Stages.
 - 2 AFC (4P, R16), 2 CONCACAF (QF, R16), 1 CAF (QF)
 - 2010 (CAF hosted)
 - 5 non-UEFA and non-CONMEBOL teams advanced out of Group Stages.
 - 2 CONCACAF (R16, R16), 2 AFC (R16, R16), 1 CAF (QF)

Country Performance on Home Continent from 1990 – 2014

Exhibit Y: Host Nation Performance Boost from 1990 – 2014

Country	Year	World Cups	Avg Place	Host Place	Difference
Italy	1990	7	12	3	9
USA	1994	7	19	14	5
France	1998	5	17	1	16
South Korea	2002	7	22	4	18
Japan	2002	5	24	9	15
Germany	2006	7	3	3	0
South Africa	2010	3	21	20	1
Brazil	2014	7	4	4	0
Russia	2018	4	20	?	?

The table above show the performance boost from hosting the World Cup as measured by a country’s improvement as host of the World Cup relative to its average performance in all other World Cups. Unsurprisingly, hosting the World Cup has a significantly positive impact on a country’s performance at

the World Cup. As seen above, every country who hosted the World Cup fared at or better than their average World Cup performance with most countries experiencing a substantial uptick.

Except for South Africa, every host country has advanced from the Group Stages so it's a safe bet to expect Russia to make it out of Group A. Other than USA and Japan who each made the Round of 16, every host country has made it at least to the Semi-Finals. As our country ranking analysis displayed in Part II, Russia fell into the same cohort as USA, South Korea, Japan, and South Africa (cohort # 5). Interestingly, those four countries experienced a wide spectrum of results as host nation with one (South Africa) failing to advance from the Group Stages and one (South Korea) reaching the Semi-Finals.

Given the strength, or lack thereof, of Group A (the easiest of the World Cup by far), I fully expect Russia to advance out of the Group Stages, though I would not count on them to make a deep run into the knockout rounds as they will likely face either Spain or Portugal from Group B in the Round of 16.

Qualification Difficulty

Only five countries³ (Germany, Brazil, Argentina, Spain, and South Korea) have qualified for the past eight World Cups and Argentina was in danger of missing out on Russia if not for some [Messi heroics](#) in their qualification finale.

CONMEBOL Improvement

- CONMEBOL has been improving over the last 3 World Cups
 - 2 QFs and 1 R16 in 2006 (out of 4 teams)
 - 1 SF, 3 QFs, and 1 R16 in 2010 (out of 5 teams)
 - 1 F, 1 SF, 1 QF, and 2 R16 in 2014 (out of 6 teams)
 - Only 2 teams (out of 15) have failed to advance from Group stages in last 3 World Cups
 - Bodes well for Peru in Russia 2018

CONCACAF's Struggles in Europe

- CONCACAF
 - 1 team has advanced from Group Stages in each World Cup in Europe
 - 2+ teams have advanced from Group Stages in each World Cup outside of Europe

CONCACAF, CAF, AFC Weakness

- Aggregate Stats Across Confederations
 - No team with more than 5 wins except Mexico (8).
 - No team with a winning record⁴ (Mexico is 8-8-8).
 - No team with a positive Goal Differential except Mexico⁴ (+2).
 - No team wins more than 33% of their matches⁴.

CAF > CONCACAF > AFC on Top 3 Basis

³ Mexico has qualified for seven consecutive World Cups in which it was eligible to participate. Mexico was banned from the 1990 World Cup for fielding overage players at a junior world championship in the late 1980s.

⁴ Amongst teams with multiple World Cup appearances.

Exhibit Z: Aggregate Stats by Confederation Based on Results from 1998 – 2014

Overall: 1998-2014

Confederation	World Cups	Teams	Matches	Wins	Losses	Ties	GF	GA	GD	Pts	Win %	Loss %	Tie %	Per Game			
														GF	GA	GD	Pts
1 UEFA	70	29	302	138	90	74	417	309	108	488	46%	30%	25%	1.38	1.02	0.36	1.62
2 CONMEBOL	25	7	116	59	33	24	173	120	53	201	51%	28%	21%	1.49	1.03	0.46	1.73
3 CONCACAF	17	6	62	15	30	17	63	94	(31)	62	24%	48%	27%	1.02	1.52	(0.50)	1.00
4 CAF	26	11	86	17	45	24	83	133	(50)	75	20%	52%	28%	0.97	1.55	(0.58)	0.87
5 AFC	21	7	71	12	43	16	57	137	(80)	52	17%	61%	23%	0.80	1.93	(1.13)	0.73
6 OFC	1	1	3	0	0	3	2	2	0	3	0%	0%	100%	0.67	0.67	0.00	1.00
Total	160	61	640	241	241	158	795	795	0	881							

Overall: 1998-2014 - Top 3 of CONCACAF, CAF, and AFC Only

Confederation	World Cups	Teams	Matches	Wins	Losses	Ties	GF	GA	GD	Pts	Win %	Loss %	Tie %	Per Game			
														GF	GA	GD	Pts
1 UEFA	70	29	302	138	90	74	417	309	108	488	46%	30%	25%	1.38	1.02	0.36	1.62
2 CONMEBOL	25	7	116	59	33	24	173	120	53	201	51%	28%	21%	1.49	1.03	0.46	1.73
3 CONCACAF	15	6	56	15	24	17	59	77	(18)	62	27%	43%	30%	1.05	1.38	(0.32)	1.11
4 CAF	15	10	53	17	21	15	64	77	(13)	66	32%	40%	28%	1.21	1.45	(0.25)	1.25
5 AFC	15	6	53	12	27	14	48	86	(38)	50	23%	51%	26%	0.91	1.62	(0.72)	0.94
6 OFC	1	1	3	0	0	3	2	2	0	3	0%	0%	100%	0.67	0.67	0.00	1.00
Total	141	59	583	241	195	147	763	671	92	870							

Difference

Confederation	World Cups	Teams	Matches	Wins	Losses	Ties	GF	GA	GD	Pts	Win %	Loss %	Tie %	Per Game			
														GF	GA	GD	Pts
1 UEFA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 CONMEBOL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 CONCACAF	2	-	6	-	6	-	4	17	(13)	-	-3%	6%	-3%	(0.04)	0.14	(0.18)	(0.11)
4 CAF	11	1	33	-	24	9	19	56	(37)	9	-12%	13%	0%	(0.24)	0.09	(0.34)	(0.37)
5 AFC	6	1	18	-	16	2	9	51	(42)	2	-6%	10%	-4%	(0.10)	0.31	(0.41)	(0.21)
6 OFC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	19	2	57	-	46	11	32	124	(92)	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Since CONCACAF, CAF, and AFC have not had the same number of countries in the World Cup and it appears that CAF and AFC are overallocated places in the World Cup field, I performed an analysis on each confederation’s performance on an equivalent basis - the top three performing teams at each World Cup. The exhibit above shows the aggregate confederation stats based on the last 5 World Cups (since the field expanded to 32 teams) on an overall basis, a top 3 team basis for CONCACAF, CAF, and AFC, and the difference between the two.

The difference column is quite revealing and certainly supports the idea that CAF and AFC have been overallocated teams at the World Cup. Teams that do not finish in the top 3 of their confederation have not won any matches at the World Cup, have lost over 80% of their matches, and are outscored by more than 1.5 goals per game. CAF has 33 of these matches, AFC has 18 of these matches, and CONCACAF has 6 of these matches.

When the confederations are compared on a top 3 team basis, the pecking order changes to CAF, CONCACAF, AFC with alignment across Wins, Losses, Goals For, Points, and Goal Differential.

Part V – World Cup Analysis: Application to Upcoming 2018 World Cup in Russia

In this section, I will evaluate how we can apply our learnings to the 2018 World Cup, whether for pleasure or perhaps financial gain in the betting markets.

First, I have grouped teams into cohorts based on insights from many of the analyses performed herein, ELO ratings, and the ease or difficulty of the World Cup draw.

Cohort #1 - Title Favorites

- Germany, Brazil, France, Spain, Argentina

Cohort #2 - Contenders

- Belgium, England, Portugal, Colombia, Uruguay

Cohort # 3 - Expect to Reach Knockout Rounds

- Mexico, Switzerland, Croatia, Denmark, Russia, Poland

Cohort #4 - Chance to Reach Knockout Rounds

- Sweden, Peru, Iceland, Senegal, Serbia

Cohort #5 - Need a Lot of Help to Advance from Group Stages

- Costa Rica, Egypt, Japan, South Korea, Iran, Nigeria

Cohort #6 – Unlikely to Advance from Group Stages

- Australia, Panama, Morocco, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia

Exhibit AA: Composite Comparison - World Cups from 1998 – 2014 vs European-Hosted World Cups

# Stage	Composite	Europe ('98 and '06)
1 Champion	UEFA 1	UEFA 1
2 Runner-Up	UEFA 2	UEFA 2
3 Third Place	CONMEBOL 1	UEFA 3
4 Fourth Place	UEFA 3	CONMEBOL 1
5 Quarter- Finalist	UEFA 4	UEFA 4
6 Quarter- Finalist	CONMEBOL 2	CONMEBOL 2
7 Quarter- Finalist	UEFA 5	UEFA 5
8 Quarter- Finalist	CAF 1	UEFA 6
9 Round of 16	CONMEBOL 3	UEFA 7
10 Round of 16	CONCACAF 1	UEFA 8
11 Round of 16	UEFA 6	UEFA 9
12 Round of 16	UEFA 7	CAF 1
13 Round of 16	UEFA 8	CONMEBOL 3
14 Round of 16	AFC 1	CONCACAF 1
15 Round of 16	CONMEBOL 4	UEFA 10
16 Round of 16	UEFA 9	CONMEBOL 4
17 Group Stages	CAF 2	AFC 1
18 Group Stages	CONCACAF 2	CAF 2
19 Group Stages	CONMEBOL 5	UEFA 11
20 Group Stages	AFC 2	UEFA 12
21 Group Stages	UEFA 10	AFC 2
22 Group Stages	UEFA 11	UEFA 13
23 Group Stages	CAF 3	CAF 3
24 Group Stages	UEFA 12	CONCACAF 2
25 Group Stages	CONCACAF 3	CAF 4
26 Group Stages	UEFA 13	CONMEBOL (5) / UEFA (14)
27 Group Stages	CAF 4	AFC 3
28 Group Stages	AFC 3	CAF 5
29 Group Stages	CAF 5	AFC 4
30 Group Stages	UEFA 14	CONCACAF 3
31 Group Stages	AFC 4	UEFA 15
32 Group Stages	CONCACAF (4) / AFC (5) / OFC (1)	CONCACAF (4) / AFC (5)

The visual above displays the composite World Cup results from the past five World Cups (shown earlier in Part I) alongside the composite World Cup results from the past two European World Cups (in 1998 and 2006). I analyze the impact by confederation of playing a World Cup on European soil below.

UEFA

- No impact for countries #1-5
- 3-6 place boost for countries #6-14

CONMEBOL

- No impact for countries #1-2
- 1-4 place drop for countries #3-5

CONCACAF

- 4-6 place drop for all countries

CAF

- 4 place drop for country #1
- Minimal impact for countries #2-5

AFC

- 3 place drop for country #1
- Minimal impact for countries #2-4

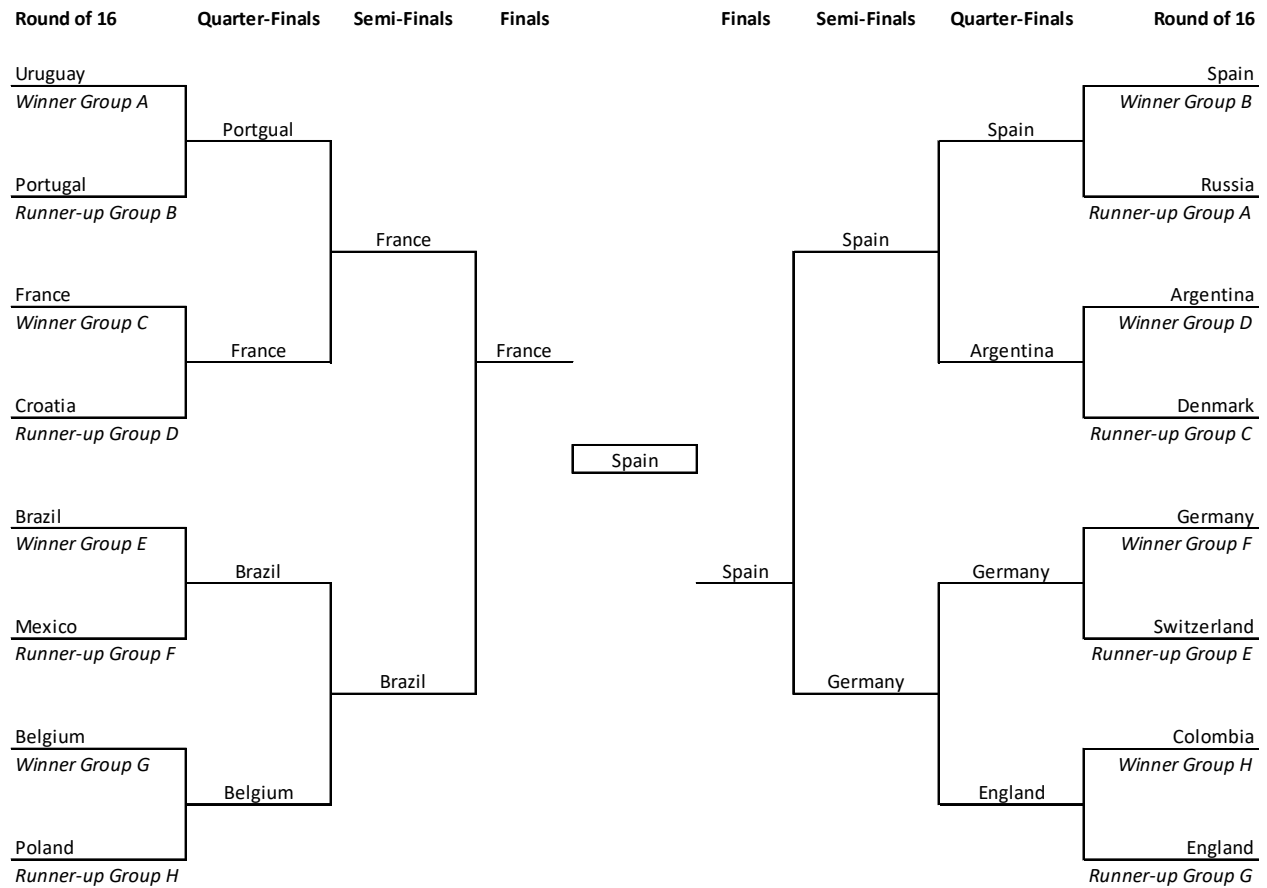
I have furnished my predictions below, which are largely informed by the insights from the analyses uncovered as part of this research.

Exhibit AB: Kyle's 2018 World Cup Predictions by Group (in order of expected finish)

Group A		Group B		Group C		Group D	
Uruguay	CONMEBOL	Spain	UEFA	France	UEFA	Argentina	CONMEBOL
Russia	UEFA	Portugal	UEFA	Denmark	UEFA	Croatia	UEFA
Egypt	CAF	Iran	AFC	Peru	CONMEBOL	Nigeria	CAF
Saudi Arabia	AFC	Morocco	CAF	Australia	AFC	Iceland	UEFA

Group E		Group F		Group G		Group H	
Brazil	CONMEBOL	Germany	UEFA	Belgium	UEFA	Poland	UEFA
Switzerland	UEFA	Mexico	CONCACAF	England	UEFA	Colombia	CONMEBOL
Costa Rica	CONCACAF	Sweden	UEFA	Tunisia	CAF	Japan	AFC
Serbia	UEFA	South Korea	AFC	Panama	CONCACAF	Senegal	CAF

Exhibit AC: Kyle's 2018 World Cup Knockout Round Predictions



When I think about this World Cup, I believe the World Cup champion will come down to one of the five teams in cohort # 1 - Germany, Brazil, France, Spain, Argentina. Upon analyzing the player pools, I was

surprised to conclude that Brazil and Argentina are not as strong, neither in depth nor top quality, as the three European teams. Argentina has weaknesses in the midfield and defense and Brazil has some question marks in central defense and midfield depth.

My assessment of Germany, France, and Spain surprised me as well. France has the most depth and is going to leave some supremely talented players at home. Among attacking options at their disposal, they will have to whittle down among the following group - Griezmann, Giroud, Lacazette, and Gameiro as central forwards and Dembele, Mbappe, Coman, Martial, Fekir, Lemar, and Payet as wingers.

Germany is very talented and has the track record of performing exceptionally well at the World Cup, but I am reluctant to predict a repeat champion since it has not occurred in over fifty years. As a result, I'm predicting Spain to win the World Cup. I think they are the most balanced team with elite players at every position with lots of depth and versatility.

In evaluating the draw, it's difficult to see any top teams failing to make the knockout rounds, though the World Cup tends to have a few surprises in the Group Stages so we'll have to wait and see if there are any early exits. However, the top teams would be wise to win their groups to avoid some potentially explosive Round of 16 matchups, which could feature France vs Argentina and Brazil vs Germany.

Exhibit AD: Comparison - World Cups from 1998 – 2014 vs European-Hosted World Cups vs Predictions

# Stage	Composite	Europe ('98 and '06)	Prediction	Prediction
1 Champion	UEFA 1	UEFA 1	UEFA 1	Spain
2 Runner-Up	UEFA 2	UEFA 2	UEFA 2	France
3 Third Place	CONMEBOL 1	UEFA 3	UEFA 3	Germany
4 Fourth Place	UEFA 3	CONMEBOL 1	CONMEBOL 1	Brazil
5 Quarter- Finalist	UEFA 4	UEFA 4	UEFA 4	Belgium
6 Quarter- Finalist	CONMEBOL 2	CONMEBOL 2	CONMEBOL 2	Argentina
7 Quarter- Finalist	UEFA 5	UEFA 5	UEFA 5	Portugal
8 Quarter- Finalist	CAF 1	UEFA 6	UEFA 6	England
9 Round of 16	CONMEBOL 3	UEFA 7	UEFA 7	Switzerland
10 Round of 16	CONCACAF 1	UEFA 8	UEFA 8	Poland
11 Round of 16	UEFA 6	UEFA 9	UEFA 9	Croatia
12 Round of 16	UEFA 7	CAF 1	UEFA 10	Russia
13 Round of 16	UEFA 8	CONMEBOL 3	CONMEBOL 3	Uruguay
14 Round of 16	AFC 1	CONCACAF 1	CONCACAF 1	Mexico
15 Round of 16	CONMEBOL 4	UEFA 10	UEFA 11	Denmark
16 Round of 16	UEFA 9	CONMEBOL 4	CONMEBOL 4	Colombia
17 Group Stages	CAF 2	AFC 1	AFC 1	Iran
18 Group Stages	CONCACAF 2	CAF 2	CAF 1	Egypt
19 Group Stages	CONMEBOL 5	UEFA 11	CAF 2	Nigeria
20 Group Stages	AFC 2	UEFA 12	UEFA 12	Sweden
21 Group Stages	UEFA 10	AFC 2	AFC 2	Japan
22 Group Stages	UEFA 11	UEFA 13	UEFA 13	Iceland
23 Group Stages	CAF 3	CAF 3	CAF 3	Senegal
24 Group Stages	UEFA 12	CONCACAF 2	CONCACAF 2	Costa Rica
25 Group Stages	CONCACAF 3	CAF 4	CAF 4	Morocco
26 Group Stages	UEFA 13	CONMEBOL (5) / UEFA (14)	CONMEBOL (5) / UEFA (14)	Peru
27 Group Stages	CAF 4	AFC 3	AFC 3	South Korea
28 Group Stages	AFC 3	CAF 5	CAF 5	Tunisia
29 Group Stages	CAF 5	AFC 4	AFC 4	Australia
30 Group Stages	UEFA 14	CONCACAF 3	CONCACAF 3	Panama
31 Group Stages	AFC 4	UEFA 15	UEFA 15	Serbia
32 Group Stages	CONCACAF (4) / AFC (5) / OFC (1)	CONCACAF (4) / AFC (5)	CONCACAF (4) / AFC (5)	Saudi Arabia

The visual above compares the aforementioned composites to my predictions made earlier. As you can see, my predictions largely align with the historical performance trends illustrated by the composite results. The main divergence in my predictions relative to the composite results of the last two World Cups hosted in Europe is CAF 1, the best performing team from CAF. Based on the World Cup draw, I don't foresee any CAF team advancing from the Group Stages.

In terms of interesting bets⁵, I'm intrigued by the Top Goalscorer odds.

<u>Player</u>	<u>Odds</u>	<u>Player</u>	<u>Odds</u>	<u>Player</u>	<u>Odds</u>	<u>Player</u>	<u>Odds</u>
Messi	9	Jesus	20	Higuain	33	Firmino	66
Neymar	10	Morata	20	Giroud	33	Sane	66
Ronaldo	12	Aguero	25	Mbappe	33	Salah	66
Greizmann	12	Suarez	25	Dybala	33	Benteke	66
Werner	16	Muller	25	Costa	33	Eriksen	80
Kane	16	Cavani	25	Icardi	33	Ozil	80
Lukaku	16	Lewandowski	25	Falcao	33	De Bruyne	100
				Hazard	40	Dembele	100
				Isco	40	Sterling	100

I love Messi and expect he'll do great, but I worry Argentina will play 1-3 games less than other teams so I am going to look elsewhere for my recommendation. It's tempting to choose a French or Spanish player since I forecast those countries to reach the Finals. However, neither France nor Spain have an outright talisman who I expect to score five or more goals and are likely to share the scoring load among several players. Additionally, each country's track record raises some question marks. France's goal scoring has been extremely erratic at the World Cup, and Spain has never scored more than 10 goals at a World Cup, including their victory in 2010.

If history is any indication, the smart money suggests selecting a Brazilian or a German. Those countries meet all the criteria in choosing a Golden Boot winner - they tend to advance deep into the tournament and consistently score lots of goals. Based on past performance, Brazil and Germany should each safely expect to reach at least the Quarter-Finals and to score at least 10 goals.

It's enticing to go with a Brazilian because I can see them racking up goals, but there is risk of goal scoring by [committee](#) with the pair of Barcelona compatriots, Paulinho⁶ and Coutinho, complimenting the frontline firepower of Neymar and Jesus with marauding runs forward from the midfield. Neymar and Jesus are each likely to find the back of the net multiple times, but I don't like their value relative to their odds (10:1 and 20:1, respectively).

Through process of elimination, I believe a German is the best choice for Golden Boot, and I would place my bet on Timo Werner (at 16:1). Germany is a safe bet to play a lot of games and score a lot of goals, and he is the most likely candidate to score goals in bunches as he is a pure finisher. Though, it's worth noting that Germany has two other compelling options. Thomas Muller (at 25:1) has finished first and second in the last two World Cups so he must be seriously considered in any Golden Boot conversation and Leroy Sane (at 66:1) is intriguing given his tremendous goal scoring form for Manchester City this season.

In terms of a sleeper, I think Mbappe (at 33:1) is a good value bet for the odds since his upside is massive. He is likely to advance deep into the knockout rounds, should play lots of minutes, and should be involved in lots of goal scoring opportunities.

⁵ Per Bet365

⁶ Who has had the Midas Touch in the past 18 months, scoring loads of goals for club and country.

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