



UEFA
EURO2024
GERMANY

EURO 2024: National teams
with the highest number of
"foreign" players



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- **Albania: 18 of 26**
- **Croatia and Turkey: 8 of 26**
- **Scotland: 6 of 26**
- **Hungary, Portugal, Serbia, and Switzerland: 4 of 26**
- **France: 3 of 26**
- **Georgia, Italy, Poland, Romania, and Ukraine: 2 of 26**
- **Belgium, England, Germany, and Slovakia: 1 of 26**
- **No foreign-born players: Austria, Czechia, Denmark, and The Netherlands**

Euro 2024 is here and, despite being an international competition, the ethos of modern-day football celebrates the diversity and multiculturalism of the participating national teams.

This year's tournament stands in testament to all the values that UEFA aims to uphold and promote today.

With this in mind, we set out to find out which national teams competing at Euro 2024 have the most foreign-born players and which teams do not feature a sole player born outside the territory of the country they represent.

Ranking of national teams by number of foreign-born players

- **Albania: 18 of 26 (69.23%)**
- **Croatia and Turkey: 8 of 26 (30.77%)**

- **Scotland:** 6 of 26 (23.08%)
- **Hungary, Portugal, Serbia, and Switzerland:** 4 of 26 (15.38%)
- **France:** 3 of 26 (11.54%)
- **Georgia, Italy, Poland, Romania, and Ukraine:** 2 of 26 (7.69%)
- **Belgium, England, Germany, and Slovakia:** 1 of 26 (3.85%)
- **No foreign-born players:** Austria, Czech Republic, Denmark, and The Netherlands (0.00%)

1. Albania

Albania tops the list with 18 of its 26 players born outside the country, demonstrating the immense contribution of its diaspora.

These players come from countries such as Kosovo, Spain, Greece, Switzerland, North Macedonia, England, Germany, and Italy.

Their diverse backgrounds and experiences complement the team's tactical versatility and international vision.

1.1 Foreign-Born Players

- **England:** Armando Broja
- **Greece:** Mario Mitaj and Tomas Strakosha
- **Germany:** Yiber Ramadani and Arber Hoxha
- **Italy:** Marash Kumbulla
- **Kosovo:** Etrit Berisha, Ardian Ismajli, and Mirlind Daku
- **North Macedonia:** Jasir Asani, Taulant Seferi, and Naser Aliji
- **Spain:** Ivan Balliu
- **Switzerland:** Arlind Ajeti, Berat Djimsiti, Nedim Bajrami, Medon Berisha, and Amir Abrashi

2. Croatia and Turkey

Both Croatia and Turkey have eight foreign-born players in their squads, mixing domestic and international experience to improve their competitive edge.

The Croatian team has players born in Germany, Bosnia, and Austria, while Turkey includes talent born in the Netherlands and Germany.

2.1 Croatia's Foreign-Born Players:

- **Germany:** Josip Stanišić, Marin Pongračić, Mario Pašalić, and Marco Pašalić
- **Bosnia:** Josip Šutalo and Ante Budimir
- **Austria:** Mateo Kovačić and Luka Sučić

2.2 Turkey Foreign-Born Players:

- **The Netherlands:** Orkun Kökçü and Ferdi Kadioğlu
- **Germany:** Cenk Tosun, Hakan Çalhanoğlu, Salih Özcan, Kenan Yıldız, and Kaan Ayhan
- **Austria:** Mert Müldür

3. Scotland

Scotland's six foreign-born players, primarily from England, underscore the strategic advantages of utilizing neighboring talent.

This approach boosts their squad with extensive footballing infrastructure and experience.

3.1 Foreign-Born Players:

- **England:** Angus Gunn, Scott McTominay, Che Adams, Liam Cooper, and Tommy Conway
- **Isle of Man:** Kieran Tierney

4. Hungary, Portugal, Serbia, and Switzerland

Hungary, Portugal, Serbia, and Switzerland each have four foreign-born players in their squads. Portugal's inclusion of players from Brazil and Guinea-Bissau highlights the historical bonds and ongoing talent exchanges that remain strong today.

4.1 Hungary Foreign-Born Players:

- **Germany:** Willi Orbán and Martin Dárdai
- **France:** Loïc Négo
- **Serbia:** Milos Kerkez
- **England:** Callum Styles

4.2 Portugal Foreign-Born Players:

- **Brazil:** Pepe and Matheus Nunes
- **Guinea-Bissau:** Danilo Pereira
- **Switzerland:** Diogo Costa

4.3 Serbia Foreign-Born Players:

- **Switzerland:** Miloš Veljković
- **Bosnia:** Srđan Babić
- **Germany:** Lazar Samardžić
- **Spain:** Sergej Milinković-Savić and Vanja Milinković-Savić

4.4 Switzerland Foreign-Born Players:

- **Cameroon:** Breel Embolo and Yvon Mvogo
- **England:** Kwadwo Duah
- **Kosovo:** Xherdan Shaqiri

5. France

The three foreign-born French players, Brice Samba (Republic of the Congo), Eduardo Camavinga (Angola), and Marcus Thuram (Italy), continue the country's tradition of integrating talent from other nations, especially those that still share strong cultural ties with this European state.

5.1 Foreign-Born Players:

- **Republic of the Congo:** Brice Samba
- **Angola:** Eduardo Camavinga
- **Italy:** Marcus Thuram

6. Spain

Spain's three foreign-born players highlight the integration of diverse talents into their national squad.

6.1 Foreign-Born Players:

- **France:** Robin Le Normand and Aymeric Laporte
- **Germany:** Joselu

Other Nations with Foreign-Born Players:

1. Georgia

- **Israel:** Giorgi Tsitaishvili
- **France:** Georges Mikautadze

2. Italy

- **Brazil:** Jorginho
- **Argentina:** Mateo Retegui

3. Slovenia

- **Austria:** Sandi Lovrić
- **Bosnia:** Josip Iličić

4. Poland

- **Ukraine:** Taras Romanczuk
- **Italy:** Nicola Zalewski

5. Romania

- **Turkey:** Ianis Hagi
- **France:** Bogdan Racovițan

6. Ukraine

- **Russia:** Andriy Yarmolenko
- **Israel:** Viktor Tsyhankov

7. Belgium

- **Senegal:** Amadou Onana

8. England

- **Ivory Coast:** Marc Guéhi

9. Germany

- **Uzbekistan:** Waldemar Anton

10. Slovakia

- **Argentina:** Vernon De Marco

Teams Without Foreign-Born Players

Denmark, the Netherlands, Austria, and Czechia have squads made up entirely of players born in the territory of the countries they represent.

Why This Matters

This diverse representation within national teams at EURO 2024 is a powerful story that resonates beyond the football field. It reflects the broader societal trends of globalization, migration, and multiculturalism.

Highlighting these stories can boost the tournament's appeal, attracting a global audience and showcasing football as a unifying force that transcends borders.

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