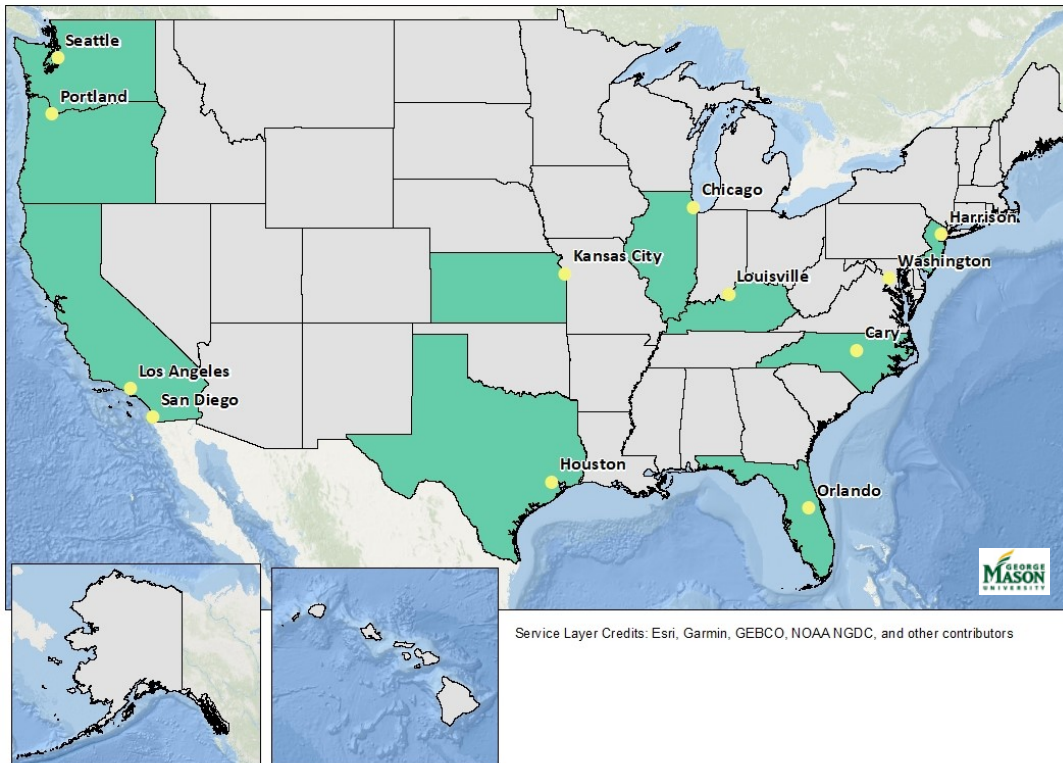


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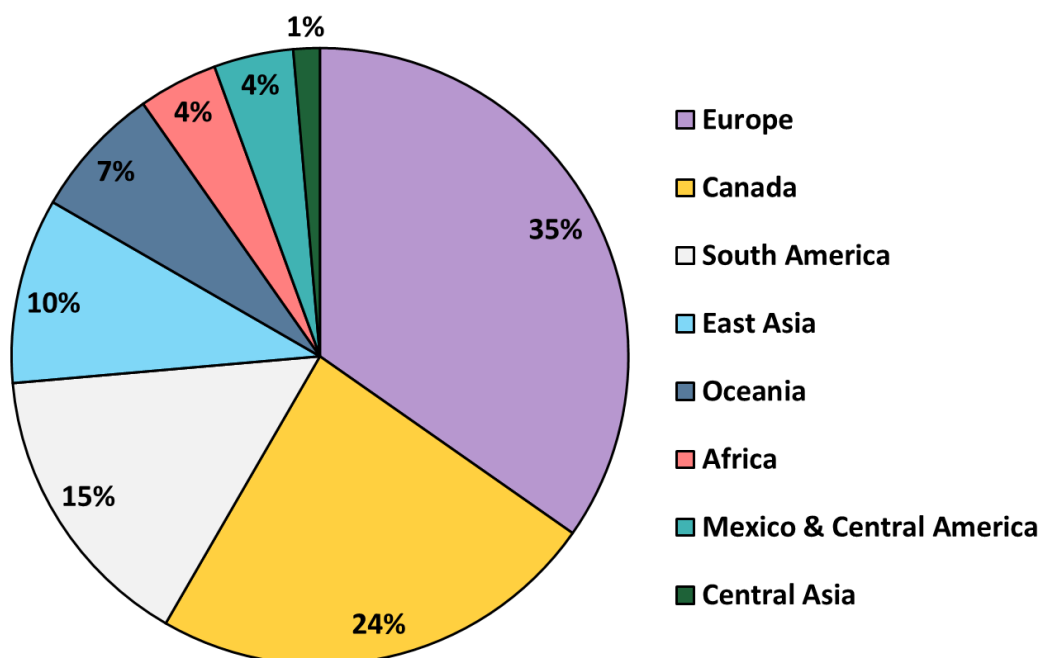
Figure 1. National Women's Soccer League Locations



2023 NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

- **12:** Number of teams in the NWSL
- **334:** Number of players
- **72:** Number of foreign-born players (22% of the league's population)
- **2%:** Percentage increase in foreign-born players in the NWSL from last year
- **24:** Number of countries foreign-born players represent

Figure 2. World Region of Birth among Foreign-born NWSL Players



- Nearly **three-fourths (74%)** of immigrant NWSL players were born in **Europe, Canada, or South America**.
- Compared to last year, there was an **increase** in players born in **South America** who played in the league (9% vs. 15%).

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Figure 3. Detailed Country of Birth among Foreign-born NWSL Players

Country		Percent
Africa	Cameroon	1.4%
	Nigeria	1.4%
	South Africa	1.4%
East Asia	Japan	8.3%
	China	1.4%
Europe	France	8.3%
	Denmark	4.2%
	England	4.2%
	Spain	4.2%
	Sweden	4.2%
	Finland	2.8%
	5 Other Countries	6.9%
Mexico and Central America	Mexico	2.8%
	Costa Rica	1.4%
Central Asia	Afghanistan	1.4%
North America	Canada	23.6%
Oceania	Australia	2.8%
	New Zealand	1.4%
South America	Brazil	15.3%
	Argentina	2.8%



- In 2023, more than half (56%) of NWSL players were born in **Canada, Brazil, France, or Japan.**
- In 2021, immigrants from these four countries comprised only **4%** of the entire foreign-born population in the United States.
- In 2021, the top five countries of birth among all immigrants in the United States include **Mexico** (24%), **India** (6%), **China** (5%), **Philippines** (4%), and **Vietnam** (3%).

Compared to last year, there was significant increase in players born in **Brazil, Denmark, France, Spain, and Mexico** who played in the league.

Analysis in this fact sheet is based on source data from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2021 distributed through IPUMS-USA, University of Minnesota, www.ipums.org as well as source data from the individual team rosters on the NWSL website (www.nwslsoccer.com). Team rosters were accessed in October 2023 and reflect the players who were on each team on that date.

Please note that the terms “immigrant” and “foreign born” are used interchangeably throughout this fact sheet. Foreign born refers to individuals who are not a U.S. citizen at birth or who were born outside the U.S., Puerto Rico or other U.S. territories and whose parents are not U.S. citizens. The foreign born may include naturalized U.S. citizens, Legal Permanent Residents, temporary residents, refugees and asylees, and others. Additionally, native born includes those who are U.S. citizens at birth, those born in the United States, Puerto Rico, or other U.S. territories, and those born abroad to a parent who is a U.S. citizen.

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Institute for Immigration Research

The Immigrants, Athletes, and Inclusion Initiative

This initiative aims to study immigration and inclusion in sports through original, data-driven research on the contributions of immigrants in professional and collegiate sports. We examine inclusion in two ways: 1) the degree to which immigrant athletes are represented in sports; and 2) how highlighting the stories and contributions of immigrant athletes can lead to greater understanding and inclusion of immigrants generally.

The Institute for Immigration Research (IIR)

The IIR's mission is to produce valid, reliable, and objective multidisciplinary research on immigrants and immigration to the United States and to disseminate this information through peer-reviewed academic journals, as well as in print and digital formats that make this research easily accessible to policy-makers, the media, the business community, and the general public. The Institute for Immigration Research is a joint venture between George Mason University and the Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. (ILC) of Malden, MA.

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