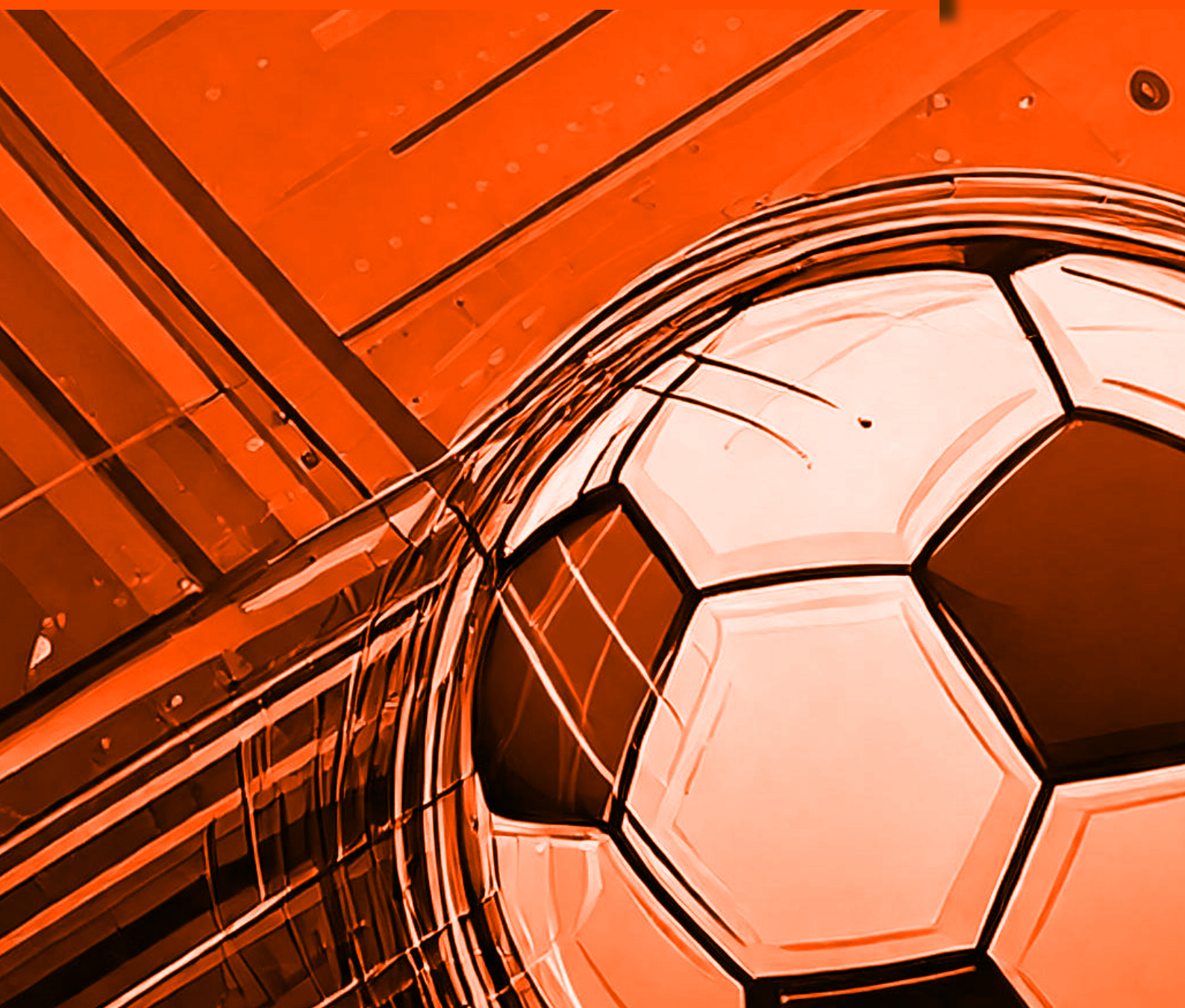
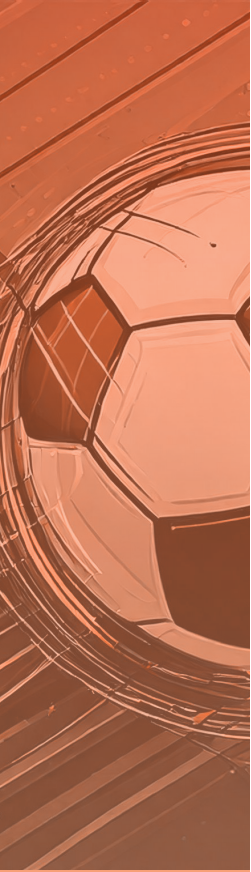


CIES Football Observatory  
Monthly Report 99 / February 2025

# TRAINING CLUBS OF BIG-5 LEAGUE PLAYERS (2005/06-2024/25)





## INTRODUCTION

The 99th Monthly Report analyses the clubs that have trained the footballers having played in Europe's big-5 league matches over the last twenty years. This study is particularly close to our hearts as it symbolically refers to the **twentieth anniversary** of the CIES Football Observatory, which we are celebrating this year. It is also a way of highlighting the training work of teams around the world and paying tribute to them.

In total, between the start of the 2005/06 season and January 31st 2025, no fewer than 13,881 footballers played at least one minute in the five major European leagues (Premier League, La Liga, Bundesliga, Serie A, Ligue 1). While 205 clubs have taken part in at least one season, the teams that trained the players fielded are far more numerous: 2,424 located in 116 national associations.

Training clubs are defined as the **first teams** where footballers have played for **at least three years between the seasons of their fifteenth and twenty-first birthdays** (seasons of these birthdays included). This is the definition commonly used by UEFA and many European associations. If the period before the players' fifteenth birthday were also taken into account, the number of clubs involved in their training would obviously be even greater.

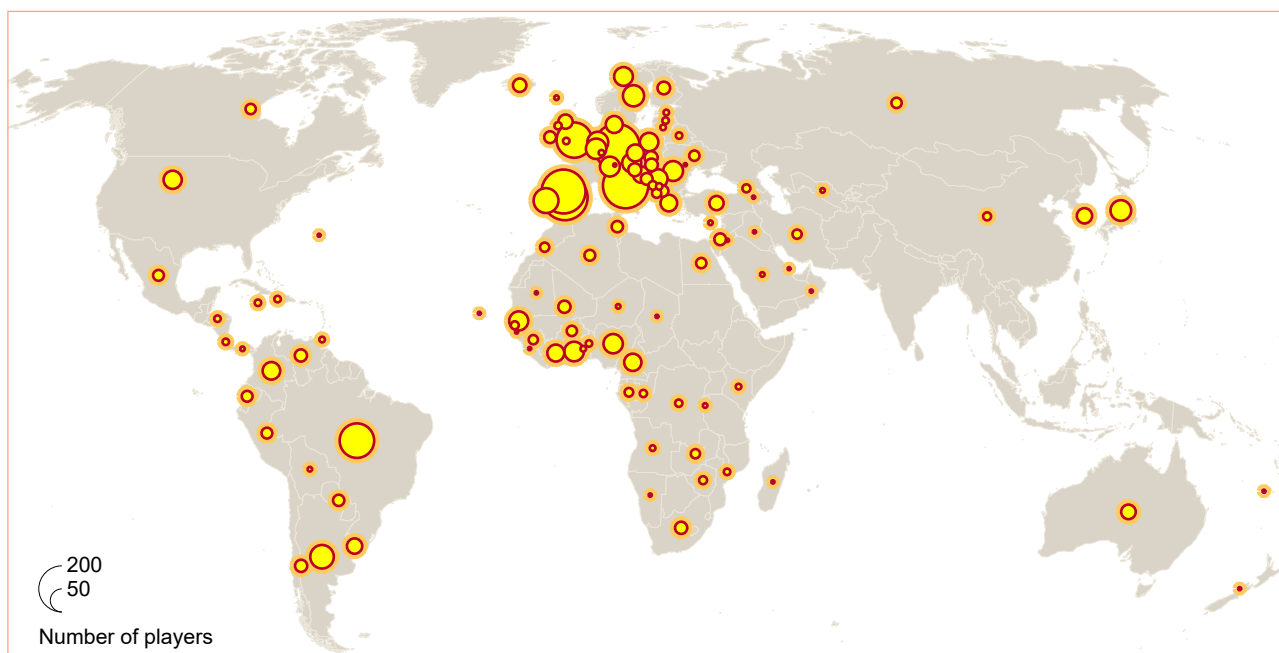
## ASSOCIATIONS OF TRAINING CLUBS

**Germany** is the association with the most clubs that have trained players fielded in the big-5 over the last twenty years: 197. This number exceeds 100 for five other associations: the four remaining nations hosting the five major championships, from 193 for Italy to 117 for England, as well as Brazil (112). However, the majority of big-5 league players were trained in other countries (58.6%), which points both to the global existence of talent and that of structures capable of nurturing it.

Number of big-5 league players' training clubs, per association of training (2005/06-2024/25)

		Clubs	Players	Matches*			Clubs	Players	Matches*		
1		Germany	197	1,426	75,727	30		Uruguay	22	161	8,440
2		Italy	193	1,458	83,450	.		Korea Republic	22	31	1,341
3		Spain	192	1,831	110,578	32		Australia	20	32	1,185
4		France	181	2,224	136,372	33		Scotland	19	76	3,767
5		England	117	1,416	79,519	.		Turkey	19	37	1,431
6		Brazil	112	543	35,187	35		Iceland	17	26	930
7		Portugal	58	237	13,453	36		Slovakia	16	49	2,465
8		Argentina	52	419	29,527	.		Slovenia	16	38	2,421
9		Sweden	42	122	5,285	38		Finland	15	25	1,616
10		The Netherlands	41	278	15,565	.		Hungary	15	37	1,163
11		Japan	40	73	3,652	40		Chile	14	52	3,825
12		Belgium	39	160	9,565	.		Mali	14	51	2,488
13		Switzerland	37	165	11,347	.		Venezuela	14	23	1,613
.		Romania	37	59	2,323	.		South Africa	14	19	,669
15		Ghana	36	58	2,409	44		Bosnia-Herzegovina	13	20	1,185
16		Nigeria	35	46	1,879	.		Republic of Ireland	13	21	1,168
17		Austria	34	100	5,430	.		Israel	13	27	1,023
.		Senegal	34	99	4,276	47		Paraguay	12	30	1,377
19		Serbia	33	158	9,601	.		North Macedonia	12	18	1,078
.		Norway	33	82	3,287	.		Tunisia	12	28	827
21		Poland	32	83	4,007	50		Mexico	11	28	1,789
22		USA	31	63	3,278	.		Peru	11	23	1,187
23		Colombia	29	93	5,744	.		Ecuador	11	19	1,014
24		Cameroon	28	51	2,215	.		Bulgaria	11	22	939
25		Denmark	27	156	7,187	.		Algeria	11	14	669
.		Czech Republic	27	100	5,956	55		Egypt	10	19	1,030
.		Ivory Coast	27	68	4,423	.		Ukraine	10	35	928
28		Greece	26	65	3,136	.		Canada	10	11	628
29		Croatia	25	131	6,896	.		Russia	10	21	570

\* Total minutes divided by 90



		Clubs	Players	Matches*		Clubs	Players	Matches*
.		10	13	505	.		3	4 165
60		8	21	776	.		3	3 101
.		8	13	689	.		3	3 78
.		8	9	444	91		2	2 101
.		8	11	436	.		2	2 71
.		8	10	160	.		2	2 59
65		7	9	557	.		2	2 42
.		7	14	321	.		2	4 41
67		6	16	603	.		2	2 31
.		6	6	343	.		2	2 5
.		6	11	185	.		2	3 2
.		6	6	114	.		2	2 1
71		5	6	777	100		1	3 339
.		5	6	268	.		1	2 169
.		5	5	26	.		1	1 111
74		4	19	1,202	.		1	1 82
.		4	14	856	.		1	1 55
.		4	8	643	.		1	1 51
.		4	5	493	.		1	1 51
.		4	4	341	.		1	3 48
.		4	4	319	.		1	1 34
.		4	8	225	.		1	2 30
.		4	5	222	.		1	1 16
.		4	4	95	.		1	1 11
.		4	5	86	.		1	1 2
84		3	4	354	.		1	1 2
.		3	3	224	.		1	1 1
.		3	4	219	.		1	1 1
.		3	3	181	.		1	1 1

## MAIN TRAINING CLUBS

**Five Spanish teams** rank in the top 10 of clubs whose home-grown footballers have played the most big-5 league minutes over the 20 years studied: Real Madrid (1st), Barcelona (2nd), Athletic Club (7th), Real Sociedad (9th) and Valencia (10th). The top ten also includes three representatives of French football (Olympique Lyonnais, Paris St-Germain and Stade Rennais), as well as one English (Manchester United) and one Italian club (Atalanta).

The top 100 is available in this [Weekly Post](#).

### Main training clubs of big-5 league players (2005/06-2024/25), at least one participation

		Number of minutes		Number of players		% minutes big-5 in the training club
1	 Real Madrid (ESP)	1,078,118 		166 		13.4% 
2	 FC Barcelona (ESP)	1,043,263 		156 		29.0% 
3	 Olympique Lyonnais (FRA)	812,385 		103 		26.4% 
4	 Manchester United (ENG)	646,061 		103 		26.2% 
5	 Stade Rennais (FRA)	627,861 		94 		26.2% 
6	 Atalanta BC (ITA)	580,199 		94 		19.8% 
7	 Athletic Club (ESP)	573,537 		89 		66.3% 
8	 Paris St-Germain (FRA)	556,606 		111 		13.0% 
9	 Real Sociedad (ESP)	548,535 		77 		58.1% 
10	 Valencia CF (ESP)	542,293 		87 		25.0% 
11	 Toulouse FC (FRA)	519,668 		87 		35.1% 
12	 Bayern München (GER)	514,931 		80 		32.0% 
13	 Atlético Madrid (ESP)	506,554 		84 		28.1% 
14	 AS Roma (ITA)	502,712 		80 		23.7% 
15	 AS Monaco (FRA)	497,075 		88 		19.2% 
16	 VfB Stuttgart (GER)	472,408 		64 		25.3% 
17	 Milan AC (ITA)	471,155 		80 		21.4% 
18	 FC Nantes (FRA)	459,377 		84 		24.1% 
19	 RCD Espanyol (ESP)	450,914 		80 		38.4% 
20	 FC Sochaux (FRA)	448,084 		62 		21.8% 
21	 Arsenal FC (ENG)	433,858 		77 		24.7% 
22	 AS St-Etienne (FRA)	425,370 		81 		36.2% 
23	 Le Havre AC (FRA)	400,035 		68 		6.0% 
24	 Sevilla FC (ESP)	394,764 		77 		24.2% 
25	 Girondins Bordeaux (FRA)	393,423 		69 		33.2% 

Of all the clubs never to have featured in the big-5 over the last two decades, **Ajax** is the one whose homegrown footballers have played the most minutes in the five major European leagues (22nd position overall). The Dutch outfit are ahead of Argentina's **River Plate**, Portugal's **Sporting CP** and another Argentinian team: **Boca Juniors**. These four clubs are also the only ones outside the big-5 to have trained more than 45 footballers having played in these leagues over the twenty years studied.

The top 100 is available in this [Weekly Post](#).

### Main training clubs of big-5 league players (2005/06-2024/25), no participation

		Number of minutes	Number of players
1	 AFC Ajax (NED)	425,894 	73 
2	 River Plate (ARG)	422,670 	51 
3	 Sporting CP (POR)	398,514 	64 
4	 Boca Juniors (ARG)	359,247 	49 
5	 TSV 1860 München (GER)	279,217 	37 
6	 Dinamo Zagreb (CRO)	257,102 	35 
7	 AS Cannes (FRA)	217,328 	29 
8	 ASEC Abidjan (CIV)	214,322 	24 
9	 Feyenoord (NED)	204,400 	34 
10	 RSC Anderlecht (BEL)	191,574 	34 
11	 FC Zürich (SUI)	190,391 	28 
12	 São Paulo FC (BRA)	190,317 	37 
13	 SL Benfica (POR)	188,192 	45 
14	 Newell's Old Boys (ARG)	180,903 	30 
15	 Crvena Zvezda (SRB)	178,909 	30 
16	 Santos FC (BRA)	177,015 	28 
17	 Racing Club (ARG)	173,315 	20 
18	 CR Flamengo (BRA)	167,016 	34 
19	 FC Basel (SUI)	165,452 	20 
20	 Defensor SC (URU)	161,833 	29 
21	 CA Independiente (ARG)	161,302 	16 
22	 FK Partizan (SRB)	158,818 	34 
23	 Grêmio FBPA (BRA)	149,979 	29 
24	 SC Corinthians (BRA)	149,544 	30 
25	 Fluminense FC (BRA)	148,771 	24 

# REAL MADRID

The list of the **166 players** trained by **Real Madrid** fielded in the big-5 over the last two decades includes club legends such as **Iker Casillas** and Raúl González. Among the players still active, the top three in terms of big-5 league minutes between 2005/06 and 2024/25 are **Dani Parejo** (Villarreal), José Callejón (Marbella) and Juan Mata (Western Sydney). The current Merengues vice-captain, **Dani Carvajal**, is fourth.

## Active players trained by Real Madrid with the most minutes in big-5 leagues (2005/06-2024/25)

Name	Minutes	Matches	Goals	Number of big-5 league clubs
1 Dani Parejo (1989)	40,289	509	77	4
2 José Callejón (1987)	31,313	482	83	5
3 Juan Mata (1988)	28,490	407	85	3
4 Dani Carvajal (1992)	25,088	318	11	2
5 David Soria (1993)	22,764	254	-	2
6 Marcos Alonso (1990)	22,134	283	31	7
7 Pablo Sarabia (1992)	21,391	348	53	4
8 Álvaro Morata (1992)	20,521	373	127	5
9 Diego Llorente (1993)	20,136	247	13	7
10 Nacho Fernández (1990)	16,724	242	12	1

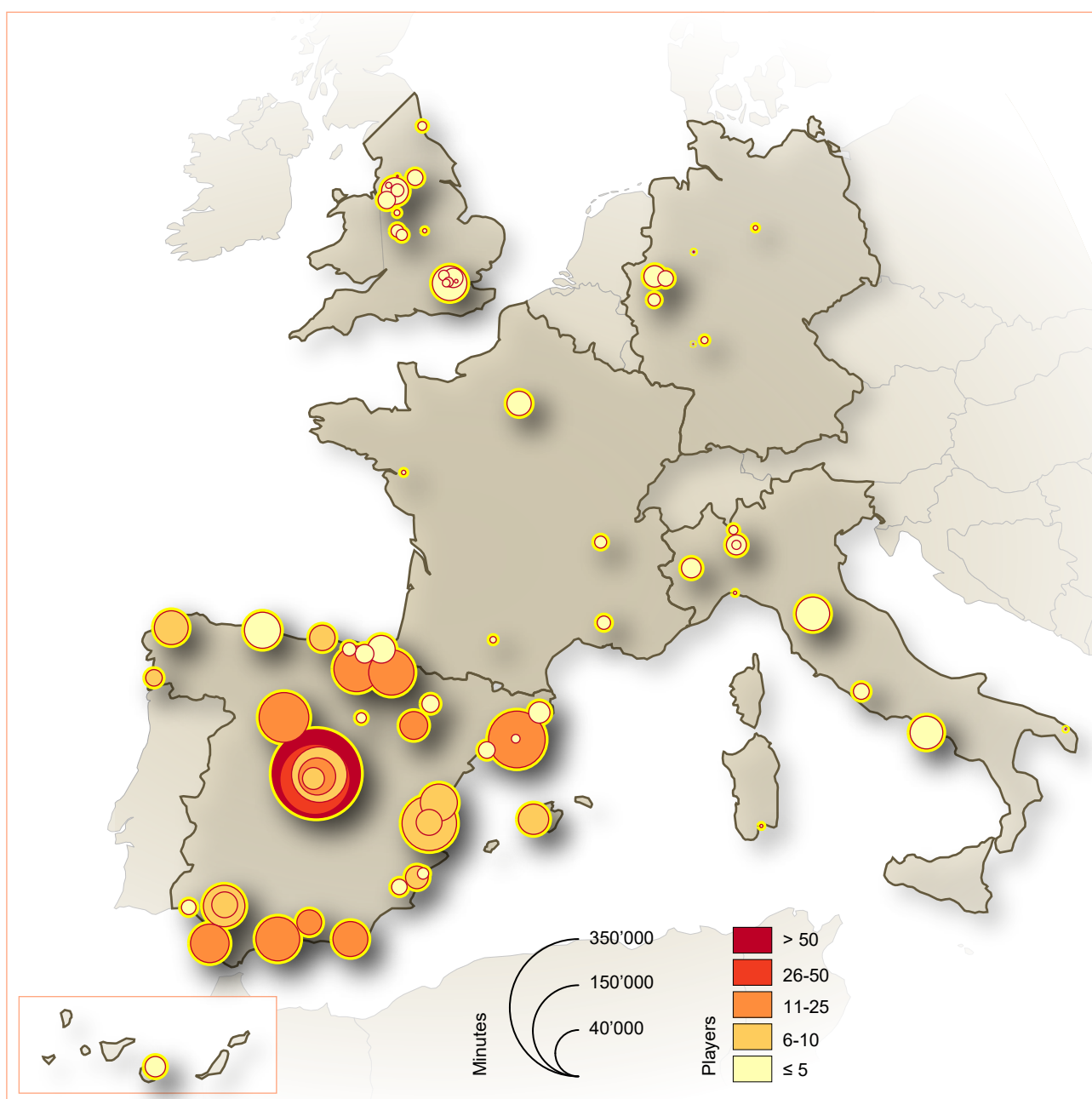
## Retired players trained by Real Madrid with the most minutes in big-5 leagues (2005/06-2024/25)

Name	Minutes	Matches	Goals	Number of big-5 league clubs
1 Juanfran Torres (1985)	32,672	421	16	3
2 Borja Valero (1985)	32,338	436	35	5
3 Iker Casillas (1981)	27,975	312	-	1
4 Roberto Soldado (1985)	24,667	377	136	8
5 Fernando Pacheco (1992)	20,038	225	-	3
6 Luis García (1981)	19,813	254	50	2
7 Álvaro Arbeloa (1983)	19,076	243	5	4
8 Esteban Granero (1987)	17,317	288	18	5
9 Raúl González (1977)	17,290	231	81	2
10 Miguel Torres (1986)	17,052	223	1	3



**Main employer clubs of players trained by Real Madrid in the big-5 leagues (2005/06-2024/25)**



	Players	Minutes
 Real Madrid (ESP)	59	144,620
 Getafe CF (ESP)	26	91,332
 RCD Espanyol (ESP)	15	59,480
 Málaga CF (ESP)	15	35,503
 Real Valladolid (ESP)	12	45,834
 Deportivo Alavés (ESP)	11	38,600
 UD Almería (ESP)	11	22,628
 Granada CF (ESP)	11	11,374
 CA Osasuna (ESP)	10	38,072
 Cádiz CF (ESP)	10	27,573





# FC BARCELONA

**Barcelona** is the second club to have trained the most players fielded in the big-5 between the seasons 2005/06 and 2024/25 (up to January 31st). Of the **156 players** in this case in point, **Lionel Messi** is the one having played the most minutes (47,038) and matches (571), most of them for Barcelona, but also for Paris St-Germain. Lionel Messi's current teammate at Inter Miami, Sergio Busquets ranks third, behind Pepe Reina. Fourth overall, **Gerard Piqué** tops the retired players' list.

## Active players trained by FC Barcelona with the most minutes in big-5 leagues (2005/06-2024/25)

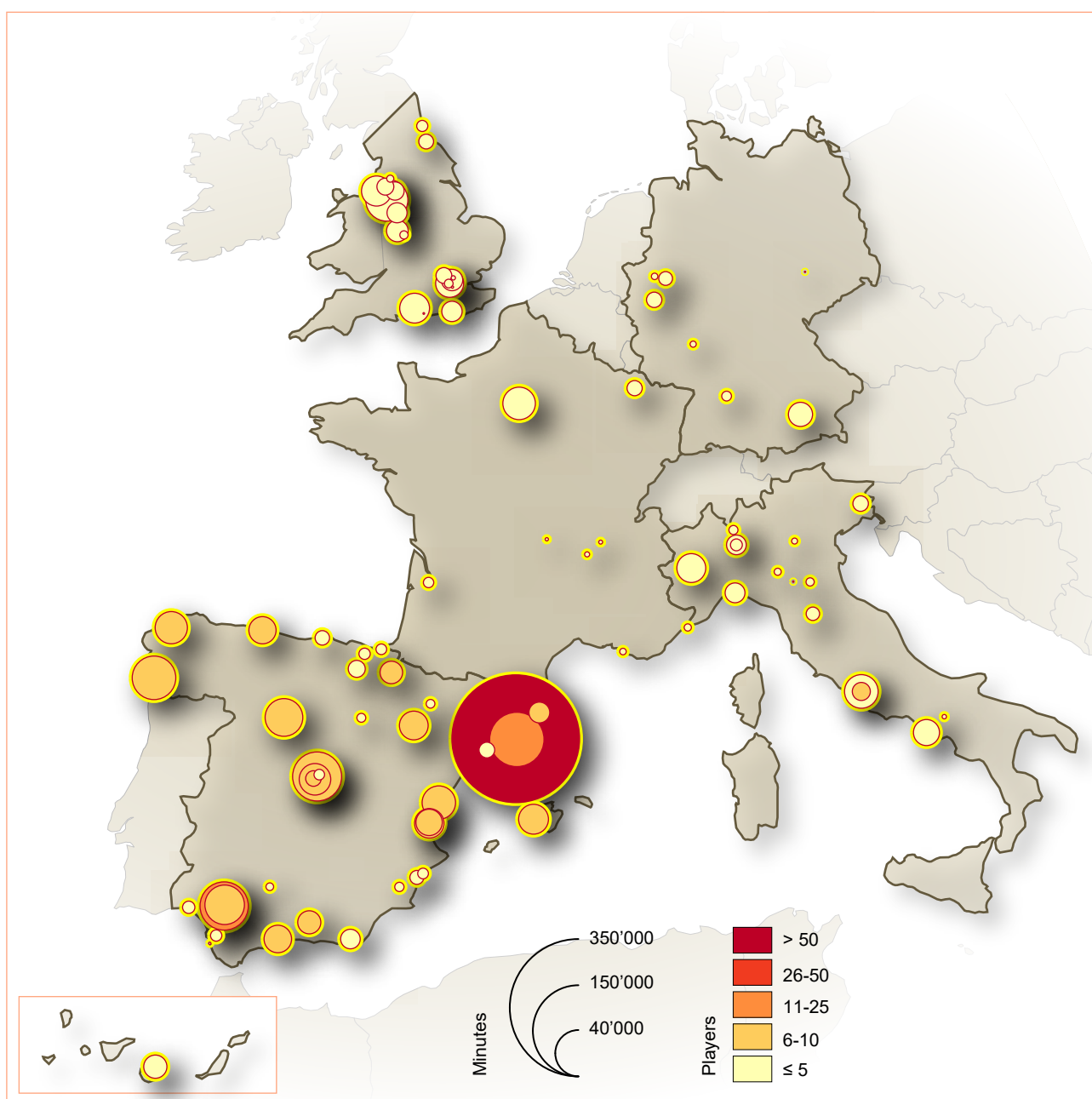
Name	Minutes	Matches	Goals	Number of big-5 league clubs
1 Lionel Messi (1987)	47,038	571	495	2  
2 Pepe Reina (1982)	46,939	524	-	8        
3 Sergio Busquets (1988)	37,456	481	11	1 
4 Pedro Rodríguez (1987)	27,242	484	109	4    
5 Oriol Romeu (1991)	25,048	355	9	6      
6 Sergi Gómez (1992)	18,393	236	2	3   
7 Marc Bartra (1991)	17,918	226	15	3   
8 Marc Cucurella (1998)	17,150	207	8	4    
9 Antonio Sanabria (1996)	16,924	270	67	6      
10 Sergi Roberto (1992)	16,060	255	12	2  

## Retired players trained by FC Barcelona with the most minutes in big-5 leagues (2005/06-2024/25)

Name	Minutes	Matches	Goals	Number of big-5 league clubs
1 Gerard Piqué (1987)	35,673	431	31	3   
2 Fernando Navarro (1982)	32,540	384	2	3   
3 Víctor Valdés (1982)	30,006	335	-	3   
4 Andrés Iniesta (1984)	27,037	388	32	1 
5 Xavi Hernández (1980)	23,658	308	41	1 
6 Sergio García (1983)	22,518	325	69	3   
7 Mikel Arteta (1982)	22,266	272	41	2  
8 Thiago Motta (1982)	20,240	283	26	5     
9 Joan Verdú (1983)	19,782	267	36	5     
10 Thiago Alcântara (1991)	19,197	286	26	3   

**Main employer clubs of players trained by FC Barcelona in the big-5 leagues (2005/06-2024/25)**



	Players	Minutes
 FC Barcelona (ESP)	66	302,678
 Real Betis (ESP)	13	43,213
 RCD Espanyol (ESP)	12	54,754
 Rayo Vallecano (ESP)	9	44,529
 Sevilla FC (ESP)	9	28,939
 Villarreal CF (ESP)	9	20,722
 Valencia CF (ESP)	9	16,193
 Real Valladolid (ESP)	8	26,359
 RCD Mallorca (ESP)	8	16,540
 Málaga CF (ESP)	8	14,068















## OLYMPIQUE LYONNAIS

The third club to have trained the footballers with the most minutes in the big-5 over the last two decades, **Olympique Lyonnais**, has also developed many world-class players, such as the first on the list in terms of playing time: **Karim Benzema**. Among active players, the Al-Ittihad striker is ahead of Anthony Lopes (Nantes) and Alexandre Lacazette (who returned to the club in 2022 after five seasons at Arsenal). **Florent Balmont**, on the other hand, is first among retired players.






### Active players trained by Olympique lyonnais with the most minutes in big-5 leagues (2005/06-2024/25)

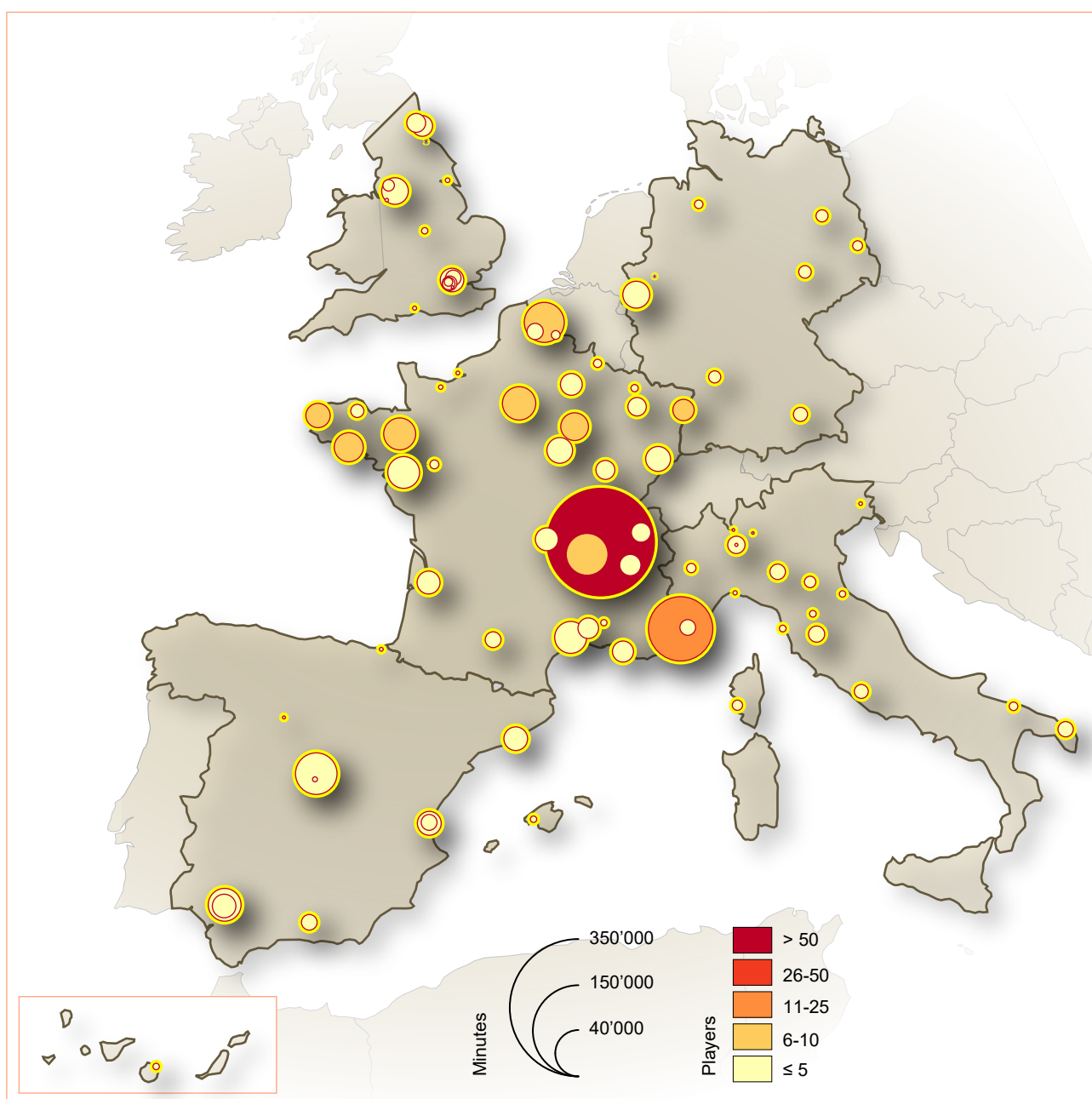
Name	Minutes	Matches	Goals	Number of big-5 league clubs
1 Karim Benzema (1987)	38,509	537	280	2  
2 Anthony Lopes (1990)	34,183	382	-	2  
3 Alexandre Lacazette (1991)	31,701	442	205	2  
4 Jordan Ferri (1992)	23,089	346	11	3   
5 Alassane Pléa (1993)	22,282	316	89	3   
6 Nabil Fekir (1993)	20,774	280	75	2  
7 Timothée Kolodziejczak (1991)	20,698	242	8	6      
8 Corentin Tolisso (1994)	18,009	261	36	2  
9 Anthony Martial (1995)	16,289	270	74	4    
10 Xavier Chavalerin (1991)	13,300	161	12	2  

### Retired players trained by Olympique lyonnais with the most minutes in big-5 leagues (2005/06-2024/25)

Name	Minutes	Matches	Goals	Number of big-5 league clubs
1 Florent Balmont (1980)	31,869	419	8	3   
2 Maxime Gonalons (1989)	29,400	383	9	5     
3 Jérémy Clément (1984)	23,299	300	6	3   
4 Samuel Umtiti (1993)	20,834	253	5	4    
5 Steed Malbranque (1980)	20,040	305	19	6      
6 Loïc Rémy (1987)	19,466	310	107	11           
7 Hatem Ben Arfa (1987)	18,299	315	54	10          
8 François Clerc (1983)	17,941	214	9	3   
9 Anthony Mounier (1987)	16,892	252	33	5     
10 Rémy Riou (1987)	15,810	176	-	4    

**Main employer clubs of players trained by Olympique Lyonnais in the big-5 leagues (2005/06-2024/25)**

	Players	Minutes
 Olympique Lyonnais (FRA)	59	214,646
 OGC Nice (FRA)	13	76,793
 LOSC Lille (FRA)	7	29,697
 FC Lorient (FRA)	7	15,682
 ES Troyes (FRA)	7	14,277
 Stade Rennais (FRA)	6	19,014
 AS St-Etienne (FRA)	5	32,399
 Paris St-Germain (FRA)	5	20,663
 Stade Brestois (FRA)	5	10,986
 RC Strasbourg (FRA)	5	8,446





## MANCHESTER UNITED

Like the three clubs above them in the rankings, **Manchester United** also have a long and prestigious tradition of developing players. Returned to his original club at the start of the 2023/24 season, **Jonny Evans** is the footballer trained at Manchester United who has played the most minutes in the big-5 over the last twenty years. The Northern Ireland's full international is ahead of three retired players: **Ryan Shawcross**, John O'Shea and Philip Bardsley.

### Active players trained by Manchester United with the most minutes in big-5 leagues (2005/06-2024/25)

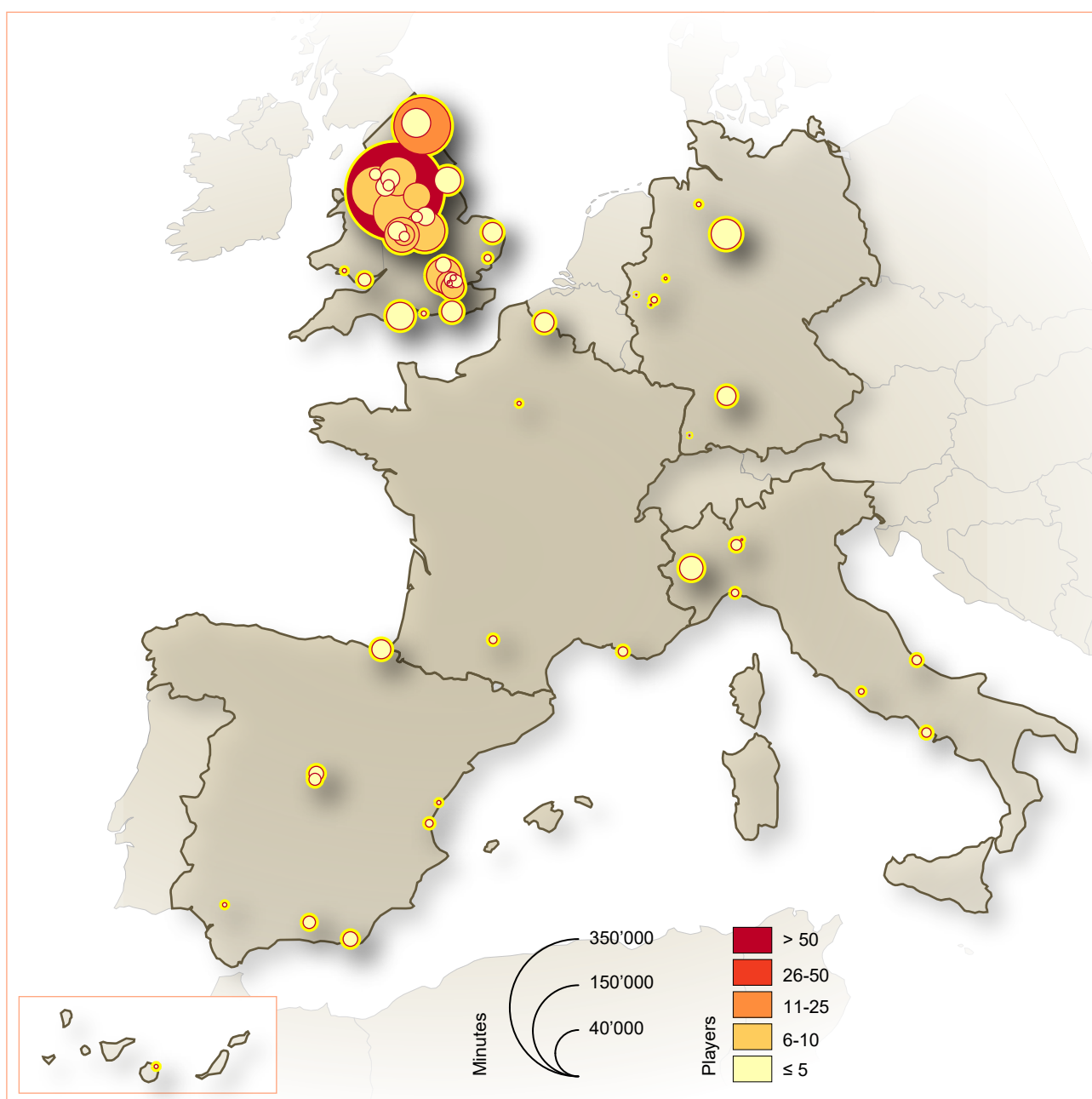
Name	Minutes	Matches	Goals	Number of big-5 league clubs
1 Jonny Evans (1988)	31,594	385	14	4
2 Ron-Robert Zieler (1989)	23,669	265	-	4
3 Michael Keane (1993)	20,890	249	15	3
4 Danny Welbeck (1990)	19,838	350	73	5
5 Marcus Rashford (1997)	19,677	287	87	1
6 Joshua King (1992)	15,618	223	57	5
7 Andreas Pereira (1996)	13,231	219	18	5
8 Scott McTominay (1996)	12,547	197	24	2
9 Adnan Januzaj (1995)	11,597	231	21	6
10 Jesse Lingard (1992)	10,156	182	29	3

### Retired players trained by Manchester United with the most minutes in big-5 leagues (2005/06-2024/25)

Name	Minutes	Matches	Goals	Number of big-5 league clubs
1 Ryan Shawcross (1987)	27,940	317	14	1
2 John O'Shea (1981)	26,129	348	9	2
3 Phillip Bardsley (1985)	24,157	303	7	5
4 Darren Fletcher (1984)	22,873	301	20	3
5 Paul Pogba (1993)	22,380	289	57	2
6 Phil Neville (1977)	20,879	242	4	1
7 Kieran Richardson (1984)	17,853	249	21	4
8 Danny Simpson (1987)	17,814	213	-	5
9 Tom Cleverley (1989)	16,138	242	14	5
10 Craig Cathcart (1989)	15,061	183	5	2

**Main employer clubs of players trained by Manchester United in the big-5 leagues (2005/06-2024/25)**


	Players	Minutes
Manchester United (ENG) 58  169,473		
Sunderland AFC (ENG) 13  59,648		
Burnley FC (ENG) 8  28,098		
Everton FC (ENG) 6  46,611		
Leicester City (ENG) 6  30,336		
Aston Villa (ENG) 6  8,299		
Stoke City FC (ENG) 5  41,382		
West Bromwich (ENG) 5  22,473		
Watford FC (ENG) 5  22,174		
Sheffield United (ENG) 5  13,549		


































## STADE RENNAIS

The excellence of **Stade Rennais'** youth system can be seen not only in the large number of players trained who have featured in the big-5 over the twenty seasons studied, but also in their quality. The list of players from the Stade Rennais academy includes a number of high-profile full internationals, such as **Ousmane Dembélé** and **Eduardo Camavinga** among those still playing, or Jimmy Briand and Yoann Gourcuff among those who have already called time on their careers.

### Active players trained by Stade Rennais with the most minutes in big-5 leagues (2005/06-2024/25)











Name	Minutes	Matches	Goals	Number of big-5 league clubs
1 Abdoulaye Doucouré (1993)	27,999	355	45	4    
2 Dimitri Foulquier (1993)	21,415	318	5	6      
3 Yann M'Vila (1990)	20,817	249	3	4    
4 Kévin Théophile-C. (1989)	20,409	233	4	3   
5 Tiemoué Bakayoko (1994)	16,109	236	12	6      
6 Ousmane Dembélé (1997)	14,090	228	56	4    
7 Eduardo Camavinga (2002)	10,606	173	4	2  
8 Lilian Brassier (1999)	9,771	120	5	2  
9 Armand Laurienté (1998)	9,501	133	22	3   
10 Wesley Saïd (1995)	9,333	200	38	4    

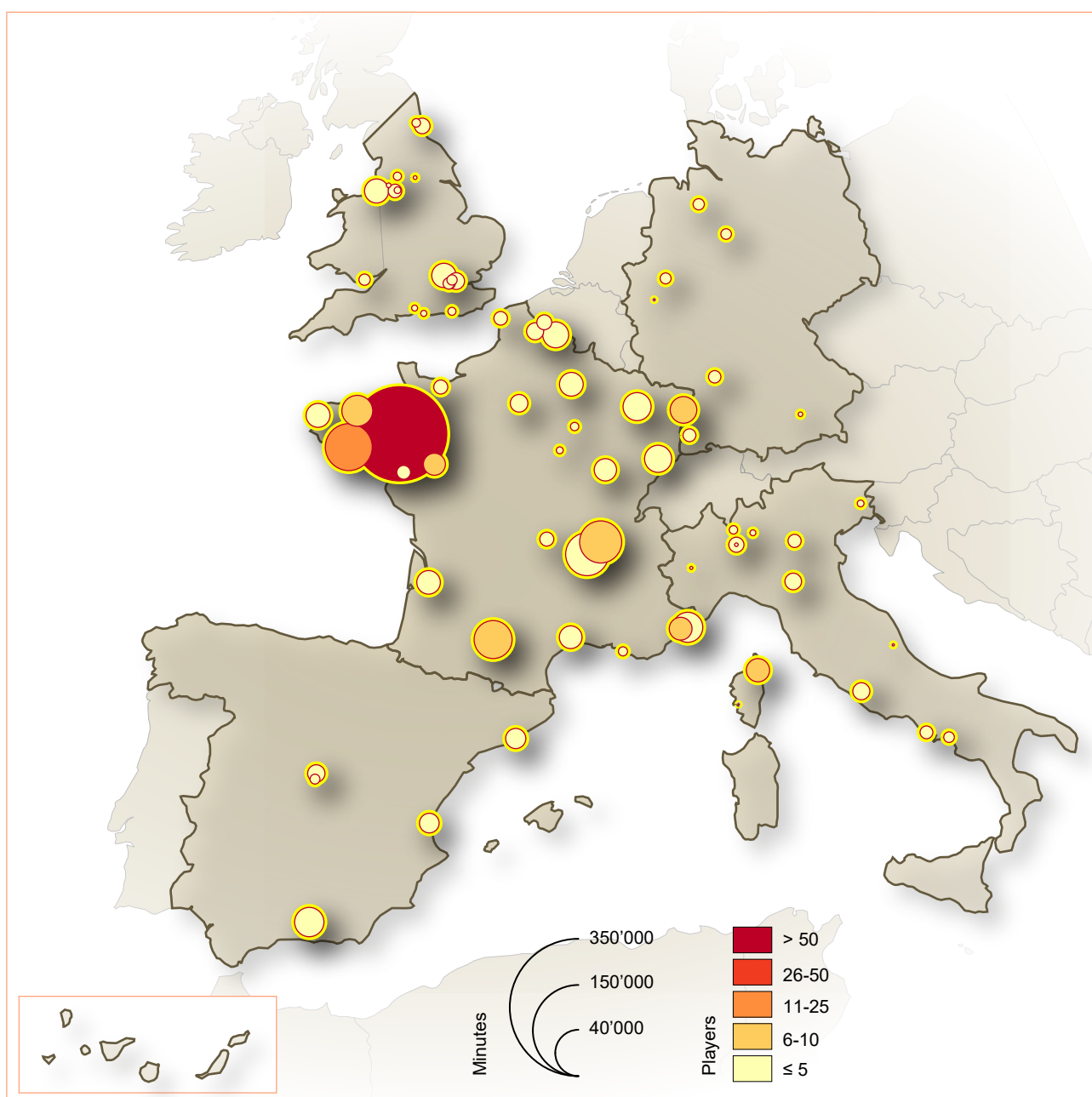
### Retired players trained by Stade Rennais with the most minutes in big-5 leagues (2005/06-2024/25)

Name	Minutes	Matches	Goals	Number of big-5 league clubs
1 Jimmy Briand (1985)	31,364	477	98	5     
2 Etienne Didot (1983)	27,603	363	16	3   
3 Fabien Lemoine (1987)	24,326	337	7	3   
4 Romain Danzé (1986)	23,809	305	7	1 
5 Anthony Réveillère (1979)	20,043	237	2	3   
6 Gaël Danic (1981)	19,586	284	39	4    
7 Grégory Bourillon (1984)	18,463	240	7	5     
8 Yoann Gourcuff (1986)	18,379	287	47	5     
9 Sébastien Puygrenier (1982)	18,022	212	21	3   
10 Arnold Mvuemba (1985)	16,405	241	14	4    



**Main employer clubs of players trained by Stade Rennais in the big-5 leagues (2005/06-2024/25)**

	Players	Minutes
 Stade Rennais (FRA)	65	164,511
 FC Lorient (FRA)	10	40,936
 Olympique Lyonnais (FRA)	6	32,892
 OGC Nice (FRA)	6	9,632
 Toulouse FC (FRA)	5	26,811
 EA Guingamp (FRA)	5	17,707
 RC Strasbourg (FRA)	5	13,131
 SC Bastia (FRA)	5	10,036
 Angers SCO (FRA)	5	8,995
 AS St-Etienne (FRA)	4	34,181



## AFC AJAX

Among the non-big-5 league clubs, **Ajax** has trained the footballers who have played the most minutes in Europe's five major leagues over the last two decades. Four Ajax-trained footballers, two of whom are still active, have played more than 20,000 minutes in the period under consideration: **Christian Eriksen**, Nigel de Jong, Rafael van der Vaart and Jan Vertonghen. More players who are still relatively young, such as **Matthijs de Ligt**, Justin Kluivert and Sven Botman, are well on their way to joining them.

### Active players trained by AFC Ajax with the most minutes in big-5 leagues (2005/06-2024/25)

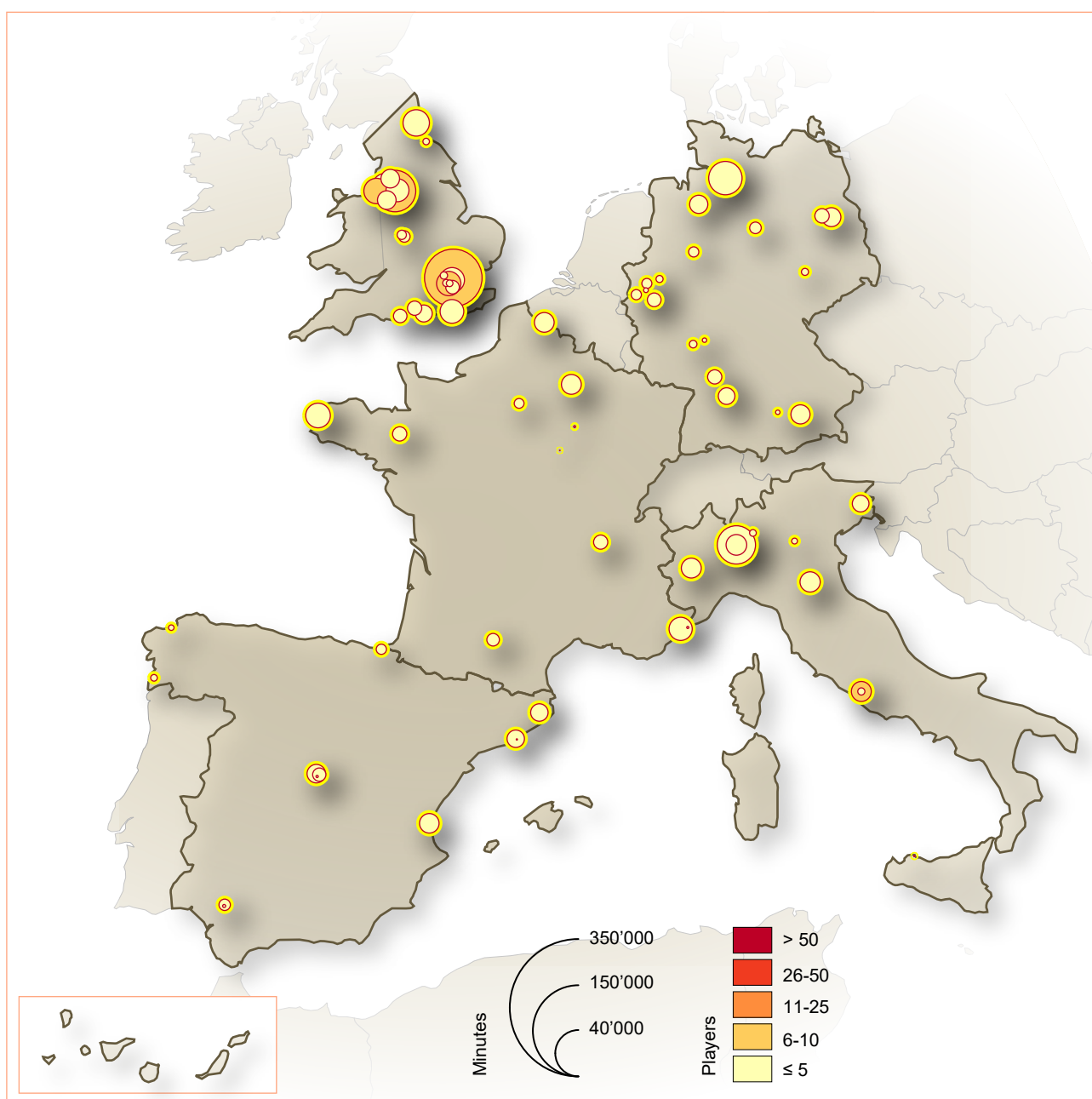
Name	Minutes	Matches	Goals	Number of big-5 league clubs
1 Christian Eriksen (1992)	25,184	342	58	4    
2 Jan Vertonghen (1987)	20,130	232	6	1 
3 Toby Alderweireld (1989)	18,493	212	10	3   
4 Matthijs de Ligt (1999)	12,682	161	14	3   
5 Daley Blind (1990)	11,965	146	5	3   
6 Marco Bizot (1991)	11,248	125	-	1 
7 Justin Kluivert (1999)	10,409	179	36	5     
8 Joël Veltman (1992)	10,404	137	4	1 
9 Sven Botman (2000)	10,293	118	5	2  
10 Kenny Tete (1995)	9,928	136	3	2  

### Retired players trained by AFC Ajax with the most minutes in big-5 leagues (2005/06-2024/25)

Name	Minutes	Matches	Goals	Number of big-5 league clubs
1 Nigel de Jong (1984)	20,533	260	9	4    
2 Rafael van der Vaart (1983)	20,155	283	80	4    
3 Edwin van der Sar (1970)	16,594	186	-	1 
4 Clarence Seedorf (1976)	15,699	210	35	1 
5 John Heitinga (1983)	13,172	170	7	4    
6 Mario Melchiot (1976)	11,777	137	2	3   
7 Thomas Vermaelen (1985)	11,303	153	14	3   
8 Wesley Sneijder (1984)	9,660	133	24	3   
9 Maarten Stekelenburg (1982)	9,005	104	-	5     
10 Ryan Babel (1986)	8,961	164	26	4    

Main employer clubs of players trained by AFC Ajax in the big-5 leagues (2005/06-2024/25)

	Players	Minutes
 Manchester United (ENG)	6	31,967
 Tottenham Hotspur (ENG)	5	61,378
 Everton FC (ENG)	5	11,960
 Fulham FC (ENG)	5	11,006
 AS Roma (ITA)	5	7,370
 Milan AC (ITA)	4	27,153
 Hamburger SV (GER)	4	20,672
 LOSC Lille (FRA)	4	7,204
 Bayern München (GER)	4	6,763
 Hertha BSC (GER)	4	3,824







## RIVER PLATE

Argentina's **River Plate** also stand out for their extraordinary ability to produce top-level players. The Millonarios-trained player with the most experience in the big-5 between 2005/06 and 2024/25 is centre forward **Gonzalo Higuaín** (Real Madrid, Napoli, Juventus, Milan and Chelsea), followed by a player who is still active: **Roberto Pereyra** (AEK Athens, Fiorentina, Sevilla and Genoa) have fielded the most players trained by River Plate since 05/06 at big-5 league level.

### Active players trained by River Plate with the most minutes in big-5 leagues (2005/06-2024/25)

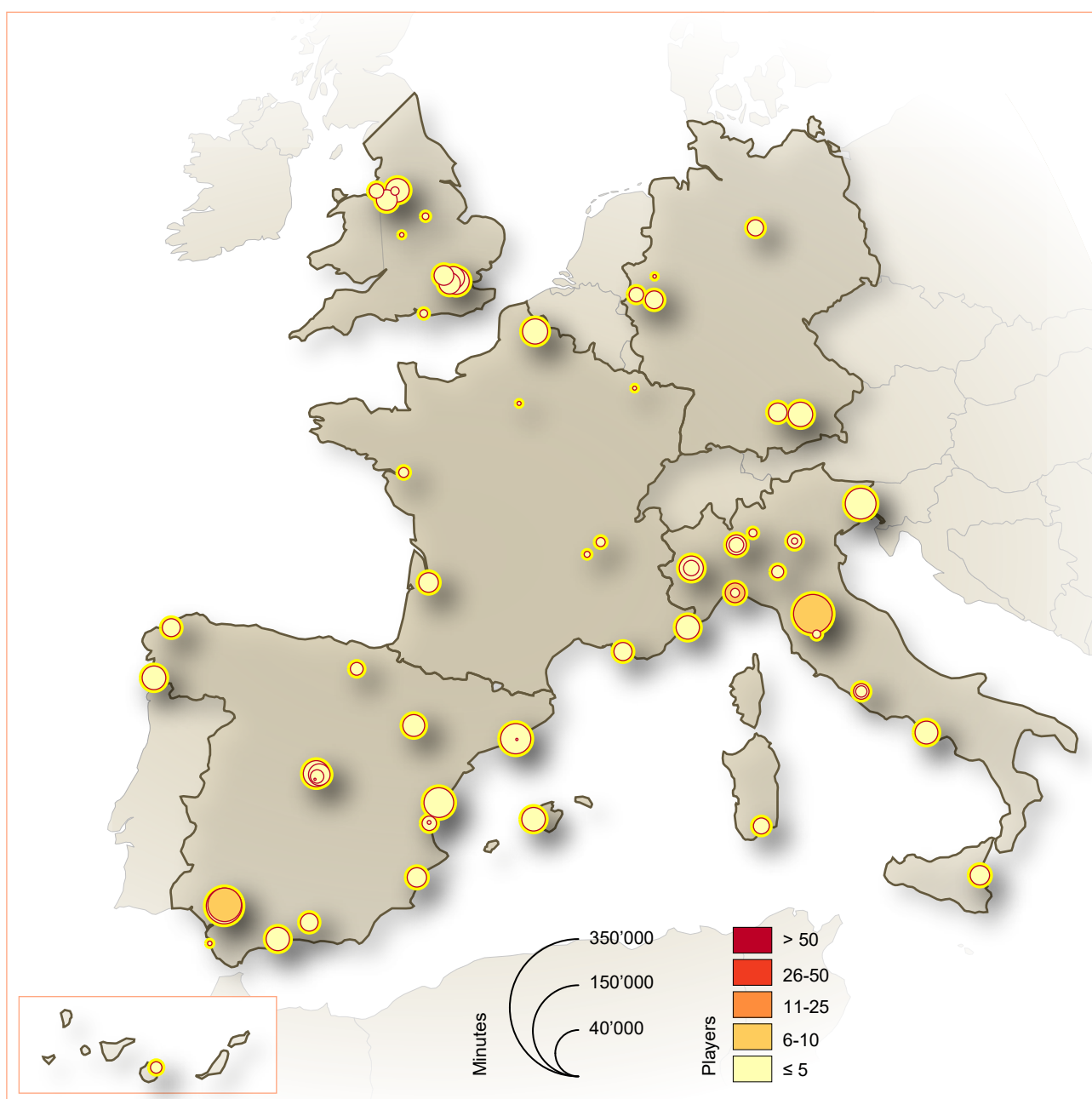
Name	Minutes	Matches	Goals	Number of big-5 league clubs
1 Roberto Pereyra (1991)	26,068	357	45	3   
2 Germán Pezzella (1991)	23,960	278	13	2  
3 Lucas Ocampos (1994)	21,076	326	58	5     
4 Radamel Falcao (1986)	17,341	283	131	5     
5 Erik Lamela (1992)	17,085	304	49	3   
6 Giovanni Simeone (1995)	16,895	287	73	5     
7 Guido Rodríguez (1994)	12,093	158	6	2  
8 Facundo Medina (1999)	11,692	136	6	1 
9 Manuel Lanzini (1993)	11,337	179	27	1 
10 Lucas Boyé (1996)	11,320	178	28	4    

### Retired players trained by River Plate with the most minutes in big-5 leagues (2005/06-2024/25)

Name	Minutes	Matches	Goals	Number of big-5 league clubs
1 Gonzalo Higuaín (1987)	30,142	428	237	5     
2 Martín Demichelis (1980)	25,021	311	21	4    
3 Javier Mascherano (1984)	24,078	302	2	3   
4 Mateo Musacchio (1990)	18,074	217	6	3   
5 Maxi López (1984)	13,813	250	49	8        
6 Augusto Fernández (1986)	10,805	159	12	4    
7 Hernán Crespo (1975)	8,238	154	45	4    
8 Germán Lux (1982)	7,979	94	-	2  
9 Pablo Aimar (1979)	6,408	85	10	2  
10 Guillermo Pereyra (1980)	5,939	75	3	1 

**Main employer clubs of players trained by River Plate in the big-5 leagues (2005/06-2024/25)**









	Players	Minutes
 ACF Fiorentina (ITA)	5	27,683
 Sevilla FC (ESP)	5	20,971
 Genoa CFC (ITA)	5	7,155
 RCD Mallorca (ESP)	4	10,220
 Atlético Madrid (ESP)	4	8,646
 Chelsea FC (ENG)	4	8,402
 Milan AC (ITA)	4	7,368
 FC Barcelona (ESP)	3	16,858
 West Ham United (ENG)	3	12,595
 Celta Vigo (ESP)	3	10,391



## SPORTING CP

Portugal's **Sporting CP** are the third team outside the big-5 whose homegrown footballers have played the most minutes in the five major European leagues over the last twenty years. The evergreen **Cristiano Ronaldo** tops the list on an individual level with no fewer than 47,046 minutes at Real Madrid (biggest employer), Manchester United and Juventus. **José Fonte** and João Moutinho complete the podium.

### Active players trained by Sporting CP with the most minutes in big-5 leagues (2005/06-2024/25)

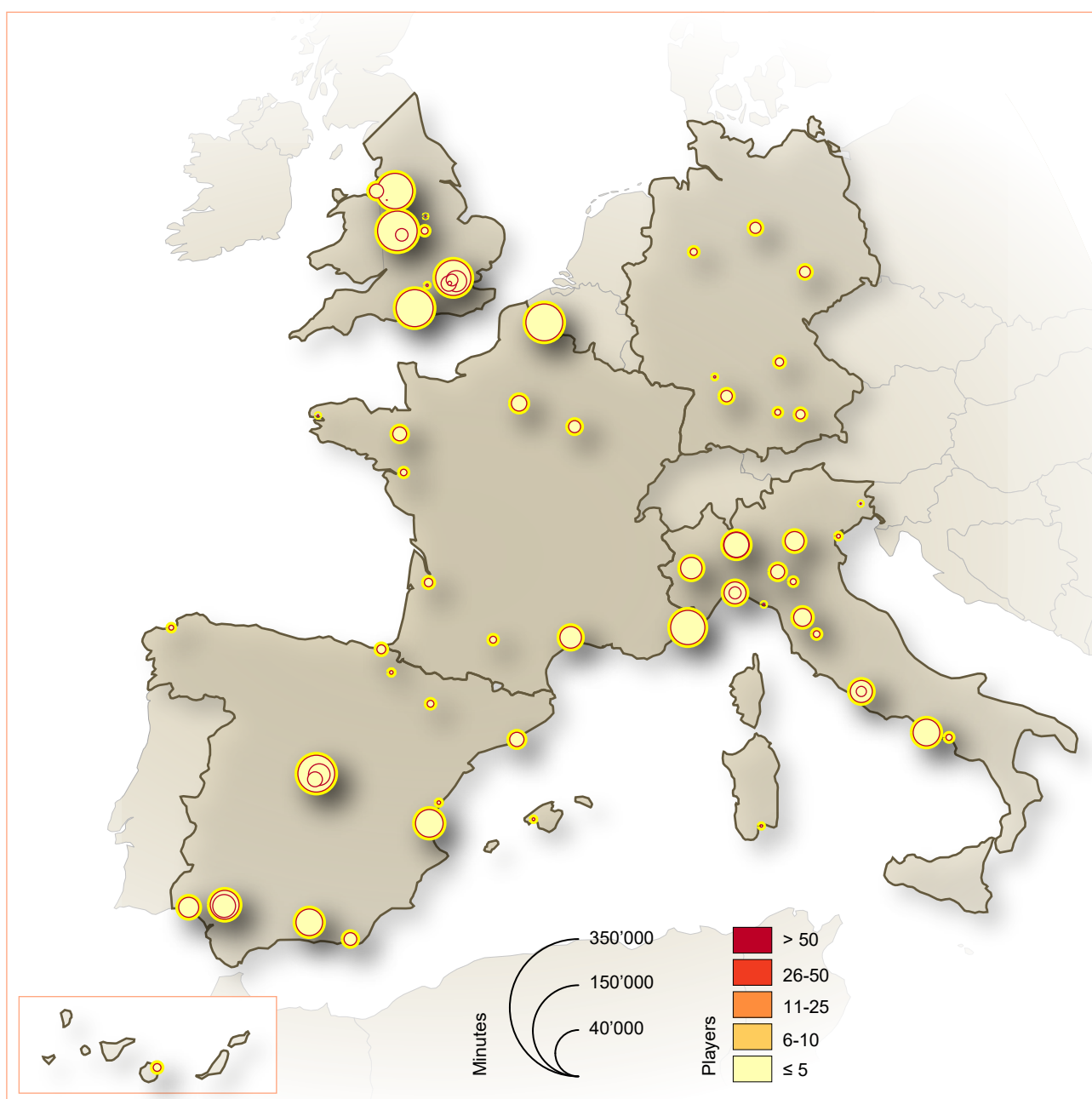
Name	Minutes	Matches	Goals	Number of big-5 league clubs
1 Cristiano Ronaldo (1985)	47,046	564	486	3  /  / 
2 José Fonte (1983)	30,138	344	15	3  /  / 
3 João Moutinho (1986)	25,860	333	14	2  / 
4 Eric Dier (1994)	24,438	298	12	2  / 
5 Rui Patrício (1988)	18,720	208	-	2  / 
6 Rafael Leão (1999)	13,543	207	59	2  / 
7 Luís Nani (1986)	12,243	200	33	4  /  /  / 
8 Domingos Duarte (1995)	11,245	139	5	2  / 
9 William Carvalho (1992)	9,673	162	8	1 
10 Thierry Rendall (1999)	8,770	121	1	1 

### Retired players trained by Sporting CP with the most minutes in big-5 leagues (2005/06-2024/25)

Name	Minutes	Matches	Goals	Number of big-5 league clubs
1 Mário Rui (1991)	19,291	248	3	3  /  / 
2 Miguel Veloso (1986)	14,792	214	8	2  / 
3 Pedro Mendes (1990)	14,672	182	5	4  /  /  / 
4 Cédric Soares (1991)	13,111	171	3	4  /  /  / 
5 Simão Sabrosa (1979)	12,202	173	23	2  / 
6 Daniel Carriço (1988)	9,485	114	5	2  / 
7 Luís Boa Morte (1977)	9,213	141	8	2  / 
8 Luís Figo (1972)	6,391	105	9	1 
9 António Beto (1982)	5,995	69	-	1 
10 Adrien Silva (1989)	5,936	92	1	3  /  / 

**Main employer clubs of players trained by Sporting CP in the big-5 leagues (2005/06-2024/25)**

	Players	Minutes
Wolverhampton FC (ENG)	4	28,991
LOSC Lille (FRA)	4	25,079
Valencia CF (ESP)	4	14,094
Granada CF (ESP)	4	13,104
Internazionale (ITA)	4	11,403
West Ham United (ENG)	4	8,201
SS Lazio (ITA)	4	1,924
Southampton FC (ENG)	3	25,270
AS Monaco (FRA)	3	21,716
Juventus FC (ITA)	3	8,464



## BOCA JUNIORS

Like their city rivals, **Boca Juniors** are renowned for their excellence in developing top-level players. The list of Boca Juniors-trained footballers who have featured in the Europe's big-5 over the last two decades includes a number of world-class performers. The most widely-used Boca Junior's academy graduate still active as a professional footballer is Argentina's full international **Éver Banega**, now back in his homeland with Newell's Old Boys.

### Active players trained by Boca Juniors with the most minutes in big-5 leagues (2005/06-2024/25)

Name	Minutes	Matches	Goals	Number of big-5 league clubs
1 <b>Éver Banega</b> (1988)	23,173	343	33	4    
2 <b>Óscar Trejo</b> (1988)	19,345	326	26	4    
3 <b>Facundo Roncaglia</b> (1987)	18,228	225	8	6      
4 <b>Gonzalo Escalante</b> (1993)	15,278	237	20	5     
5 <b>Ezequiel Muñoz</b> (1990)	13,908	173	2	4    
6 <b>Rodrigo Bentancur</b> (1997)	12,905	204	10	2  
7 <b>Leandro Paredes</b> (1994)	12,899	214	13	5     
8 <b>Nahuel Molina</b> (1998)	10,203	142	15	2  
9 <b>Leonardo Balerdi</b> (1999)	8,978	123	4	2  
10 <b>Nicolás Bertolo</b> (1986)	4,800	92	8	2  

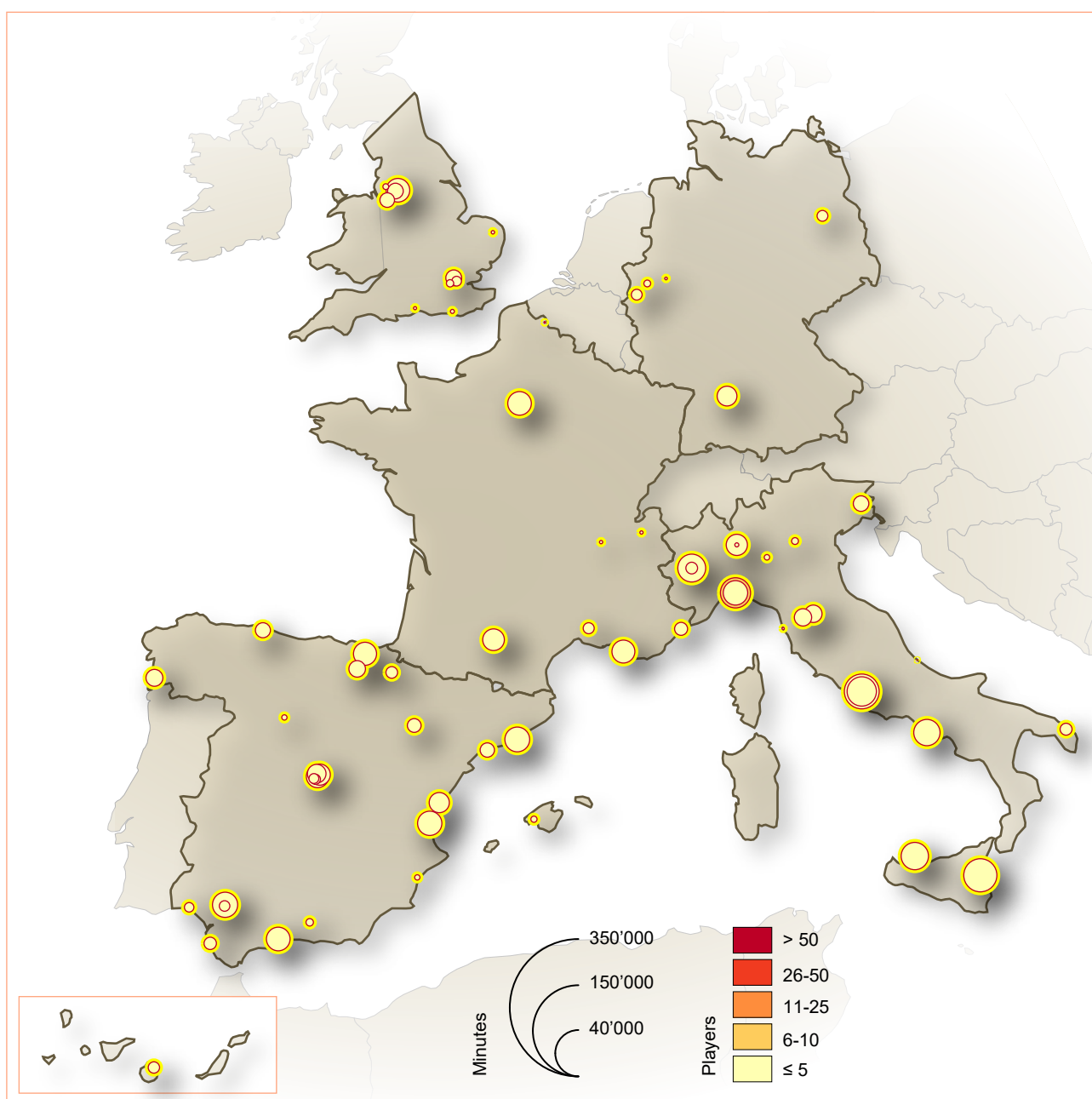
### Retired players trained by Boca Juniors with the most minutes in big-5 leagues (2005/06-2024/25)

Name	Minutes	Matches	Goals	Number of big-5 league clubs
1 <b>Matías Silvestre</b> (1984)	27,667	318	16	6      
2 <b>Nicolás Burdisso</b> (1981)	26,210	317	10	4    
3 <b>Cristian Ledesma</b> (1982)	24,359	292	14	2  
4 <b>Carlos Tévez</b> (1984)	19,897	268	123	4    
5 <b>Ezequiel Lavezzi</b> (1985)	18,900	263	60	2  
6 <b>Emiliano Insúa</b> (1989)	13,590	165	3	4    
7 <b>Willy Caballero</b> (1981)	13,470	153	-	4    
8 <b>Pablo Álvarez</b> (1984)	9,788	126	-	2  
9 <b>Fernando Gago</b> (1986)	9,513	135	2	3   
10 <b>Juan Forlín</b> (1988)	8,811	106	2	1 



**Main employer clubs of players trained by Boca Juniors in the big-5 leagues (2005/06-2024/25)**



	Players	Minutes
 Genoa CFC (ITA)	5	16,879
 Palermo FC (ITA)	4	13,844
 Internazionale (ITA)	4	8,331
 Atlético Madrid (ESP)	4	8,320
 Catania FC (ITA)	3	20,355
 AS Roma (ITA)	3	15,946
 Juventus FC (ITA)	3	14,406
 RCD Espanyol (ESP)	3	11,406
 UC Sampdoria (ITA)	3	11,075
 Valencia CF (ESP)	3	10,937



## TSV 1860 MÜNCHEN

One club from a country hosting a big-5 league is also among the top five of teams whose academy graduates were fielded for the most minutes in the big-5 leagues since 2005/06: Germany's **TSV 1860 München**. Unfortunately for them, their expertise in developing elite footballers (**Volland**, Baier, Bender, etc..) has yet to be reflected in sporting results, with their last Bundesliga appearance dating back to the 2003/04 season and current participation in the third division level of German football.

### Active players trained by TSV 1860 München with the most minutes in big-5 leagues (2005/06-2024/25)

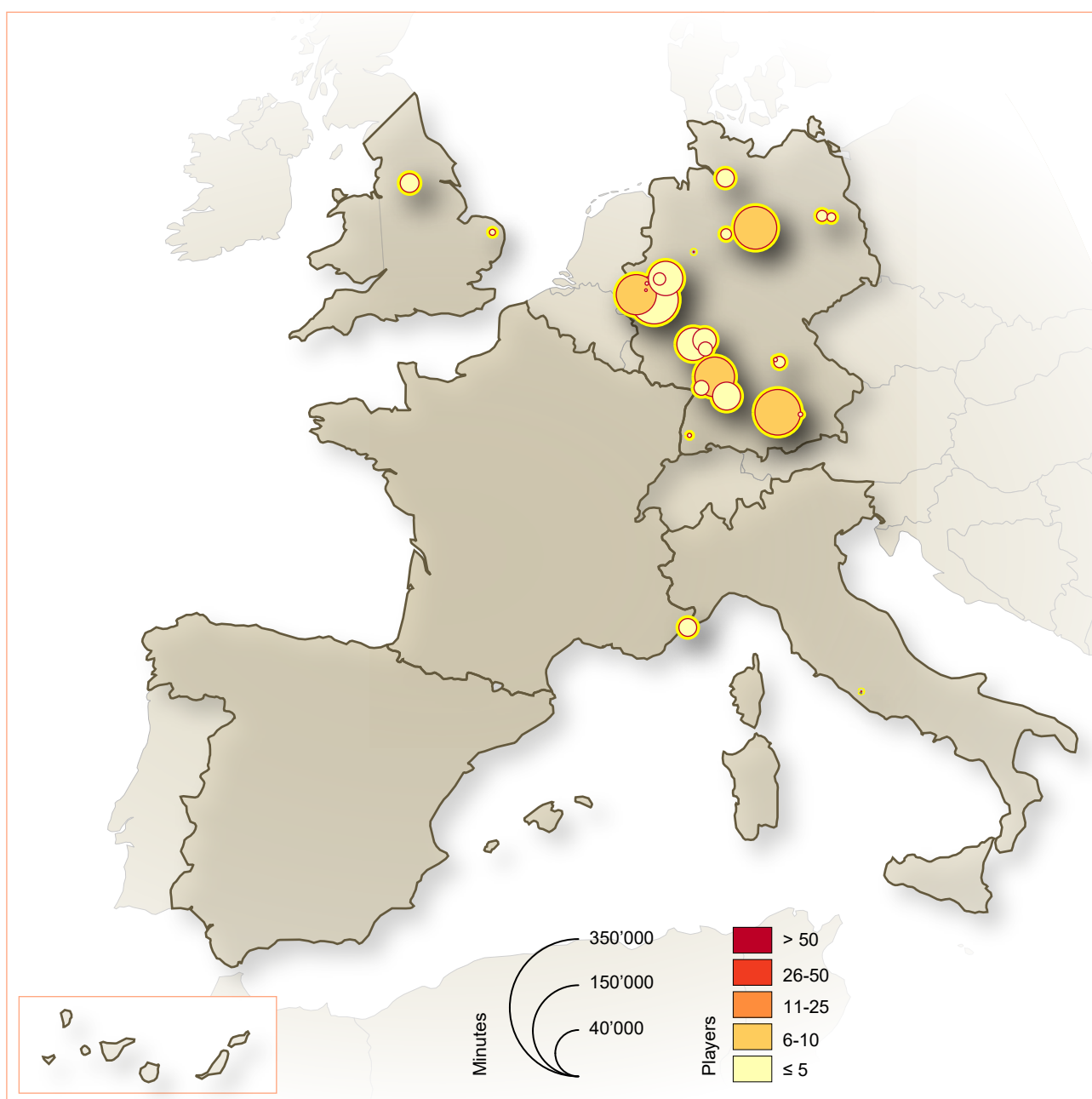
Name	Minutes	Matches	Goals	Number of big-5 league clubs
1 Kevin Volland (1992)	27,334	363	108	4    
2 Julian Weigl (1995)	15,318	188	6	2  
3 Florian Neuhaus (1997)	11,908	179	22	1 
4 Felix Uduokhai (1997)	11,699	152	4	2  
5 Bobby Wood (1992)	4,877	72	10	2  
6 Peniel Mlapa (1991)	3,193	79	8	2  
7 Maximilian Wittek (1995)	2,826	42	3	1 
8 Kilian Fischer (2000)	2,166	35	-	1 
9 Julian Justvan (1998)	1,069	18	2	2  
10 Alexander Fuchs (1997)	,660	9	1	1 

### Retired players trained by TSV 1860 München with the most minutes in big-5 leagues (2005/06-2024/25)

Name	Minutes	Matches	Goals	Number of big-5 league clubs
1 Daniel Baier (1984)	24,992	292	6	2  
2 Sven Bender (1989)	19,234	265	8	2  
3 Marcel Schäfer (1984)	18,854	256	13	1 
4 Lars Bender (1989)	18,262	256	22	1 
5 Julian Baumgartlinger (1988)	17,788	255	7	3   
6 Christian Träsch (1987)	16,245	209	5	2  
7 Fabian Johnson (1987)	14,502	210	18	3   
8 Tobias Strobl (1990)	13,138	186	1	3   
9 Alexander Hack (1993)	9,607	133	6	1 
10 Stefan Aigner (1987)	9,587	127	25	2  

Main employer clubs of players trained by TSV 1860 München in the big-5 leagues (2005/06-2024/25)

	Players	Minutes
 FC Augsburg (GER)	7	38,485
 TSG Hoffenheim (GER)	7	29,227
 VfL Wolfsburg (GER)	6	33,614
 Borussia M'gladbach (GER)	5	29,833
 Bayer Leverkusen (GER)	4	42,912
 VfB Stuttgart (GER)	4	14,455
 Borussia Dortmund (GER)	3	21,832
 FSV Mainz 05 (GER)	3	19,751
 FC Nürnberg (GER)	3	2,376
 Hannover 96 (GER)	3	2,107



Since its creation in 2005, the Football Observatory research group within the CIES (Centre International d'Étude du Sport) has become a reference point in the demographic and economic study of the football players' labour and transfer markets, the analysis of the clubs' and players' performance (technical, tactical, physical), as well as the scientific estimation of transfer values.

The CIES Football Observatory is regularly mandated by key governing bodies (FIFA, UEFA, ECA, SAFF, etc.), many of the most reknown clubs worldwide (Chelsea, Arsenal, Juventus, Atlético de Madrid, Benfica, Olympique Lyonnais, Stade Rennais, Ajax, etc.), as well as player unions, agents, lawyers and sponsors.

The CIES Football Observatory enjoys considerable success and a rapidly growing reputation. More than 33,000 subscribers receive our weekly newsletters. The website ([football-observatory.com](http://football-observatory.com)) records more than one million visits per year. The group is also present on the principle social media with a total of about 140,000 followers.

More information: [www.football-observatory.com](http://www.football-observatory.com)