



# GOALSCORING AT THE EURO 2016

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# Goalscoring Overview

**“We tried, we tried –time and time again. But they shut the door in our face. We had the majority of possession. We dominated play from start to finish, really. But we couldn’t unlock the door.”**

- Gary Cahill, England

**“When the objective was not to finish last in the group, the focus was often on very good, well-organised defending. It wasn’t easy for attackers.”**

- Peter Rudbaek, UEFA Technical Observer

- 108 goals scored
  - Av. 1,92 goals/game after group stage
  - Av. 2,12 goals/game after knock-out stage (2,45 at Euro2012 -> down 13,5%)
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# Goalscoring Overview

↑ 17.6%

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Substitutes were responsible for  
17.6% of all goals

↓ 7%

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The percentage of headed goals fell  
from 29% at UEFA EURO 2012 to  
22% in France

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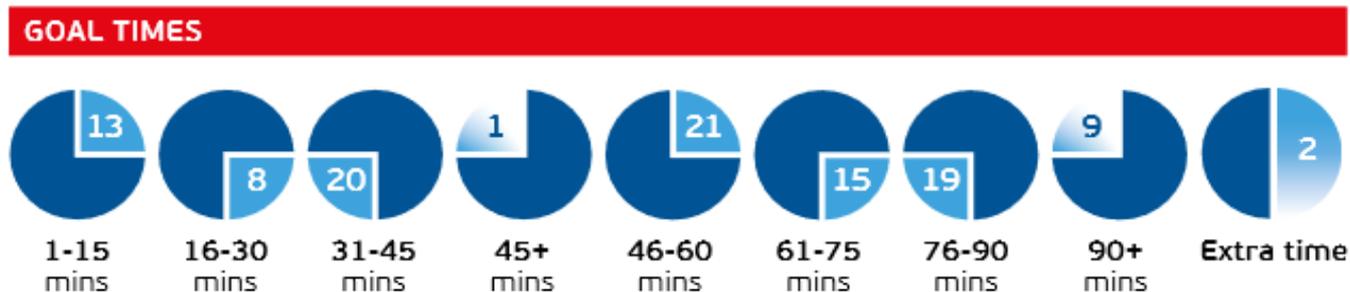
## Substitutes

- Impact **substitutes**
  - **18% of goals** scored by substitutes
  - Similar to FIFA World Cup 2014
  - 14.5% at UEFA EURO 2012
  - 10.3% at FIFA World Cup 2010



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# When the goals were scored?



- 42 goals during 1<sup>st</sup> half – 66 goals after half time (61%)
- 19% of the goals scored during the first 30 mins
- 28 goals after 75th mins.
- 9 goals during added time

## Group stage (69 goals):

- 19 goals after 80<sup>th</sup> mins.
  - 15 goals after 85<sup>th</sup> mins
  - 7 goals during added time
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# Importance of scoring first

**“I think we were the better team but the first goal against us was a massive blow.”**

- David Alaba, Austria

**“Their first goal was vitally important and it came from our attack. As we started to chase the game, we got caught a few times”**

- Martin O’Neill

## COME-FROM-BEHIND WINS

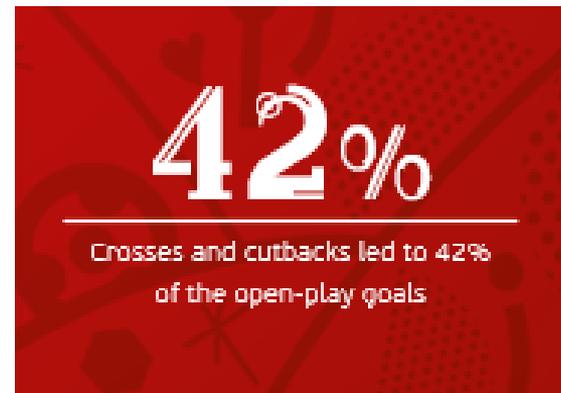
Only five matches were won by the team conceding first

England	2-1	Wales
Croatia	2-1	Spain
France	2-1	Republic of Ireland
England	1-2	Iceland
Wales	3-1	Belgium

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# Open-play goals

OPEN-PLAY GOALS				
ACTION	GUIDELINES	GROUP STAGE	KNOCKOUT STAGE	TOTAL
Combination	Wall pass or combination move	5	2	7
Cross	Cross from the wing	14	6	20
Cutback	Pass back from the byline	6	3	9
Diagonal	Diagonal pass into the penalty box	2	1	3
Run with the ball	Dribble and close-range shot or dribble and pass	8	1	9
Long-range shot	Direct shot or shot and rebound	6	6	12
Forward pass	Through pass or pass over the defence	7	4	11
Defensive error	Bad back-pass or mistake by the goalkeeper	1	1	2
Own goal	Goal by the opponent	2	1	3
		51	25	76



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## Crossing

- **Crosses and cutbacks** important
  - Responsible for **42% of open play** goals
  - **40 crosses per match** compared to 26 at EURO 2012
- **In-swinging** crosses provided some key goals:
  - *Robbie Brady* for Ireland vs Italy
  - *Birkir Bjarnason* for Iceland vs Portugal
  - *Gerard Piqué* for Spain vs Czech Republic



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## Counter-attacks

- **Reduction in goals** scored from **counter-attacks**
- **Most teams** had the **ability**
- Tactics **limited** the **opportunities**
- **Goals** that were scored often came **very late** in games
  - *Bastian Schweinsteiger* for Germany vs Ukraine
  - *Graziano Pellè* for Italy vs Belgium and Spain
  - *Ricardo Quaresma* for Portugal vs Croatia
  - *Eden Hazard* and *Yannick Carrasco* for Belgium vs Hungary



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# Fast transition

- The use of long passes increased by 24% from the Euro 2012
- Average time in possession before scoring a goal was down by 11% from the Euro 2012 (12,05s -> 10,77s)
- Number of passes made before scoring also fell from the Euro 2012 (3,87 -> 3,73)
- 19,4% of the goals (21) scored in France came from possession being gained in defensive third
- 47% of the goals (51) scored in France came from possession being gained in the final third (high and instant pressing)

**“They had to open up and that’s why we defended deeper. If you open up against us, the odds are that you will be punished.”**

- Marc Wilmots

**“Their first goal was vitally important and it came from our attack. As we started to chase the game, we got caught a few times”**

- Martin O’Neill

**“We didn’t allow Poland to play to their strengths, to hurt us on the counterattack”.**

- Joachim Löw

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## Direct to the Point

- More **direct attacking**
  - 31% of teams at EURO 2012 played **less** than **10%** of their passes **long**
  - **All teams** at EURO 2016 played **at least 10%** of their passes **long**



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# Possession - Goals

## Possession

1. Germany 63%
2. Spain 61%
3. England 59%
4. Switzerland 58%
5. Ukraine 56%



## Goals per Game

1. France 1.86
2. Belgium 1.8
3. Wales 1.67
4. Iceland 1.6
5. Hungary 1.5



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## Possession

- **Just 31%** of games **won** by the **team** with **most possession**
  - **11 of 15 knockout matches** won by team with less possession
  - In **2015/16 UEFA Champions League 8 of 29** (1/4 finals onwards) matches were won by team with less possession



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# Set play goals

**“In tight matches – as games at a major championship are – teams are well organised defensively and tend not to expose themselves to counterattacks at the beginning. So attention to the detail of scoring from set plays and being able to defend them is very important.”**

- Gareth Southgate, UEFA Technical Observer

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## SET-PLAY GOALS

ACTION	GUIDELINES	GROUP STAGE	KNOCKOUT STAGE	TOTAL
Corner	Direct from or following a corner	6	6	12
Direct free-kick	Direct from a free-kick	4	0	4
Indirect free-kick	Following a free-kick	3	3	6
Penalty	Spot kick (or follow-up from a penalty)	4	4	8
Throw-in	Following a throw-in	1	1	2
		18	14	32

- 29,6% of the total number of goals scored at the tournament
- 21% more goals scored from set plays than at Euro2012
- Success rate from corners was 1:45 (1:57 at Euro2012, 1:64 at Euro2008)
- 19 goals scored from set plays were the opening goals

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**" Sometimes you have to be pragmatic. It would be nice to play pretty but that's not always how you win tournaments"**

- Fernando Santos





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