

## **Nation professional and ITF junior ranking performance relative to country population**

Typically, the tennis prowess of a nation is quantified by the number of players they have professionally ranked, and more so those ranked in the Top 100 and 250 professional and ITF junior lists. However, given the gross population of each nation is vastly different, are countries with high representation in the Top 100 and 250 simply a product having a larger national talent pool? Or are they genuinely performing better than rival nations? The Performance team set out to explore this question and undertook a comparison of the raw and relative ranking performance by country population to determine which nations are 'punching above their weight' and which nations may appear to be performing but are actually 'batting below their average'. More so, the goal was to unearth where Australia sits on both the raw and relative lists given our small population size.

### **Methodology:**

The top 10 nations, based on having the most number of players in the ATP and WTA Top 100 on 30/6/19, were used for this analysis. The total number of Top 100, Top 250 and total ranked male and female professional and ITF junior players for each nation were obtained as well as the gross country population. The assumption was made that each nation had a 50/50 gender population split, so the total country population was divided in half for the male and female analysis respectively. Each of the raw ranking values was then calculated relative to the country (and gender) population to determine the relative ranking values. To determine the change in country performance from raw to relative ranking values, each nation was ranked from 1-10 for each metric (Top 100, Top 250 and total ranked professional and junior players) from highest to lowest values. The overall ranking of each nation was then compared.

### **The Findings:**

When inspecting the raw ranking values, the USA trumped both the men's and women's lists with the most number of players in the Top 100, Top 250 and total ranked professional and ITF junior players collectively. However, when assessed based on the population of the USA, the men slipped to 10<sup>th</sup> (Table 1) and the women 9<sup>th</sup> (Table 2) on the list. Conversely, when assessed relative to country population, Serbia rose to number 1 on the men's side (Table 1) and Czech Republic on the women's side (Table 2).

How did Australia stack up? Based on the raw number of players ranked in the Top 100, Top 250 and total ranked professional and ITF junior players, Australia ranked 5<sup>th</sup> on both the men's and women's list. Yet, relative to population, Australia rose to 2<sup>nd</sup> on the men's side (Table 1) and 3<sup>rd</sup> on the women's side (Table 2).

Country	Overall Raw Ranking	Overall Relative Ranking	Top 100 ATP	101-250 ATP	Total ATP Ranked Players	Top 100 Junior Boys	101-250 Junior Boys	Total Ranked Junior Boys
France	2	4	11	9	81	8	6	128
Spain	4	3	9	12	64	5	7	64
USA	1	10	9	13	94	14	12	207
Italy	2	5	6	14	74	7	8	74
Argentina	7	6	6	7	43	6	1	53
Australia	5	2	6	10	60	4	6	76
Serbia	10	1	5	3	20	1	2	40
Germany	8	8	4	11	50	0	4	60
Russia	6	9	3	3	26	3	8	114
Canada	9	7	3	4	20	2	2	74

Table 1: Top 10 male nation's raw and relative ranking performance of Top 100, Top 250 and total ranked professional and ITF junior players.

Country	Overall Raw Ranking	Overall Relative Ranking	Top 100 WTA	101-250 WTA	Total WTA Ranked Players	Top 100 Junior Girls	101-250 Junior Girls	Total Ranked Junior Girls
USA	1	9	13	17	132	16	20	295
Russia	2	6	11	10	82	11	15	223
Czech Republic	6	1	7	6	40	3	4	39
Germany	6	8	6	4	43	1	5	68
Switzerland	10	2	5	2	26	2	2	32
France	4	4	5	3	60	10	9	103
Australia	5	3	4	11	49	2	3	77
Ukraine	8	4	4	4	27	4	2	62
China	3	10	4	11	65	7	3	94
Spain	9	7	4	4	37	4	0	54

Table 2: Top 10 female nation's raw and relative ranking performance of Top 100, Top 250 and total ranked professional and ITF junior players.

## Conclusion:

The raw ranking performance of a nation can be insightful when assessed against the population of the Top 100, Top 250 or total ranked players. However, when exploring the ranking performance of a nation based on their country population, aka: their talent pool, the story is largely different. This should be considered when benchmarking national ranking performance. This story is a positive one for Australia whereby we are 'batting above our average' with the number of Top 100, Top 250 and total ranked professional and ITF junior players we have compared to our relatively small population.

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