

2011 Athletics Facts

ABAC Fact File 5.

Participation 20-34 years old

Introduction. In this final Participation Fact File we look at the numbers of senior athletes who competed in track and field in 2010. Following on from the previous Fact Files we identify the numbers of competing male and female athletes by annual age increments. Athletes in the 35 and older age bands are veteran athletes and are not in the population being assessed here.

Numbers identified. In this section we record the numbers for athletes recording a defined number of performances in 2010. How do we define an athlete who competes regularly? A leading name in the sport suggested that an athlete was someone who competed once a fortnight. This seems sensible and would equate to 12 competitions in the season. Indoor competition makes this a little easier.

So as a first step we record the number of athletes currently on the database of recorded performances who have taken part in 12 or more competitions during 2010. These figures are:-

	Men	Women	Total
Age 20	81	46	127
Age 21	59	36	95
Age 22	60	29	89
Age 23	38	26	64
Age 24	54	24	78
Age 25	34	22	56
Age 26	31	19	50
Age 27	18	11	29
Age 28	17	12	29
Age 29	22	9	31
Age 30	13	7	20
Age 31	6	7	13
Age 32	10	4	14
Age 33	2	4	6
Age 34	4	2	6
Total in group	449	258	707

We have expanded this population to include all senior athletes who registered at least 6 performances during 2010. These figures are:-

	Men	Women	Total
Age 20	203	121	324
Age 21	160	96	256
Age 22	141	79	220
Age 23	113	77	190
Age 24	114	59	173
Age 25	81	50	131
Age 26	74	39	113
Age 27	54	40	94
Age 28	54	38	92
Age 29	56	21	77
Age 30	37	18	55
Age 31	28	18	46
Age 32	22	11	33
Age 33	10	6	16
Age 34	17	10	27
Total in group	1164	683	1847

Concluding summary. Although it is very comprehensive we recognise that the 2010 database of performances may not contain each and every performance for this age group. We therefore propose to use the senior athlete participation numbers for those athletes recording at least 6 performances rather than the 12 performances one during 2010.

The first conclusion is that as with the younger age groups there is an annual fall in participating numbers with increasing age.

But the most startling result from this study is that in the UK there are only 1164 senior men competing regularly in track and field athletics. Additionally there are only 683 senior women competing.

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