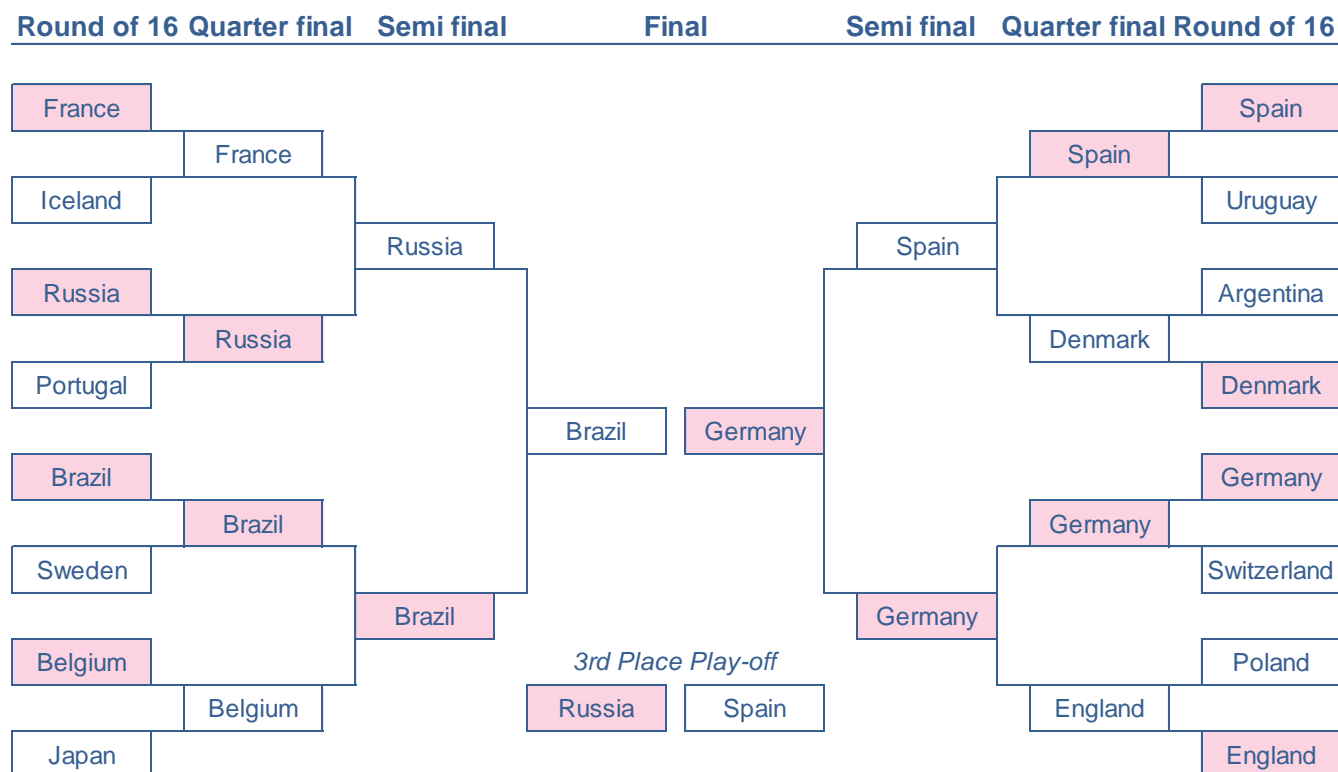




# IATA ECONOMICS' CHART OF THE WEEK

15 JUNE 2018

## GERMANY TO WIN THE WORLD CUP FOR THE FIFTH TIME



Source: IATA Economics

- The World Cup, like aviation, truly brings the world together. Indeed, in a sign of how closely the two are linked, it has been difficult to avoid the many pictures of teams arriving into Russia by aircraft over the past few weeks (eg, see [link](#)).
- Many organizations have produced [predictions](#) for which team will win the World Cup and this is our attempt. Our sophisticated prediction model\* incorporates a number of aviation-specific factors, including how well each country is connected by air on a per capita basis – the more connected a country, the greater its ability to import footballing skills – as well as the number of direct air links with Russia; more direct services help to save passengers time and will be a big influence behind how many of each country's supporters make the trip to Russia to support their team. Our model also takes into account each country's footballing pedigree and perhaps the most important commodity of all – luck.
- A few stories stand out: despite being the smallest nation in the tournament, Iceland's excellent level of air connectivity should help them to progress through the group stage, before ultimately losing out to France in the round of 16. We expect England to stumble once again at the quarter-final stage of a major tournament, losing on penalties to Germany, while Russia make a spirited run to the semi-finals and clinch third place. (Their 5-0 win over Saudi Arabia in the opening match certainly bodes well.) Most importantly, Germany's excellent connectivity to/from Russia – it has nearly three times as many flights each year to/from the host nation than France, for example – should help them to retain the World Cup. The only saving grace for Brazilian fans is that we expect the result in the final to be a lot closer than when the two teams last met in a World Cup four years ago...

\*Note: it is not really a sophisticated prediction model(!).

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