



Research



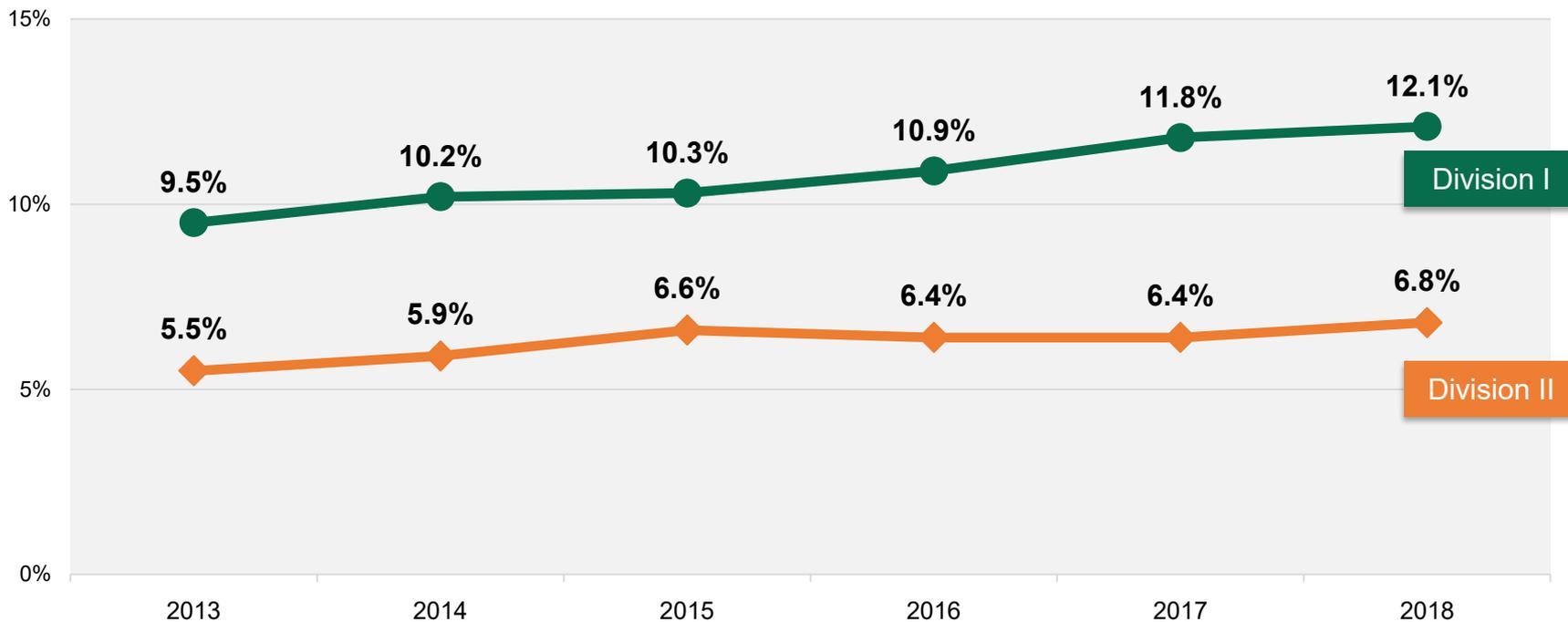
Trends in the Participation of International Student-Athletes in NCAA Divisions I and II

October 2019

Methodology

- ▶ Percentages are based on first-year student-athletes (non-transfers) at Divisions I or II colleges. Similar data are not available for Division III.
- ▶ Student-athletes with a non-U.S. country of origin were categorized as international. Students from the 50 U.S. states and U.S. territories (e.g. Puerto Rico, Guam, etc.) were considered domestic. See Detailed Methods slide for more information.
- ▶ Data include all first-year student-athletes who were in a 2018 Division I Academic Progress Rate (APR) cohort or in the 2018 Division II Academic Performance Census (APC). This may exclude some Division I walk-ons and others who do not meet academic tracking inclusion criteria in Divisions I or II.

Overall Trends in International Student-Athlete Participation in Divisions I and II



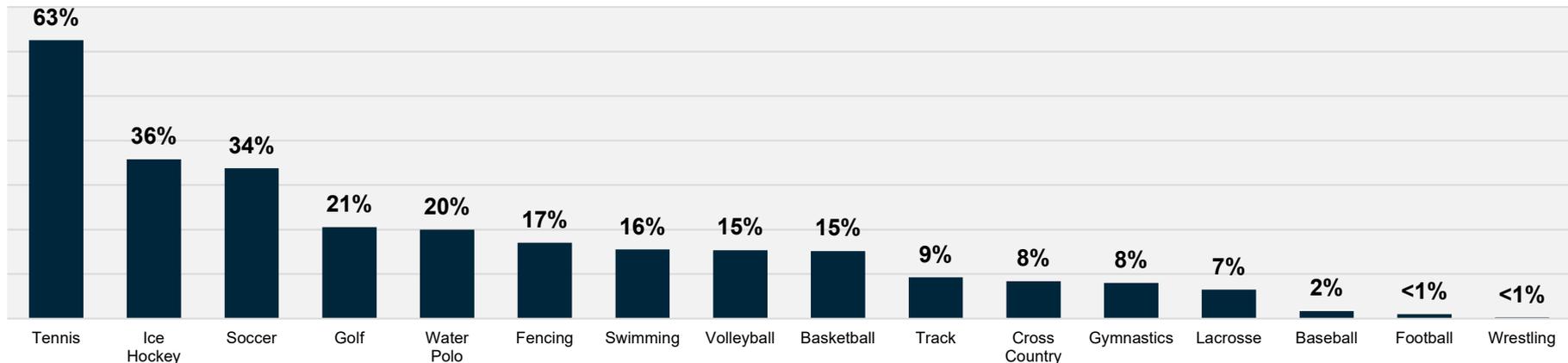
Total Numbers

	2013	2018
DI	2,442	3,325
DII	1,430	1,975

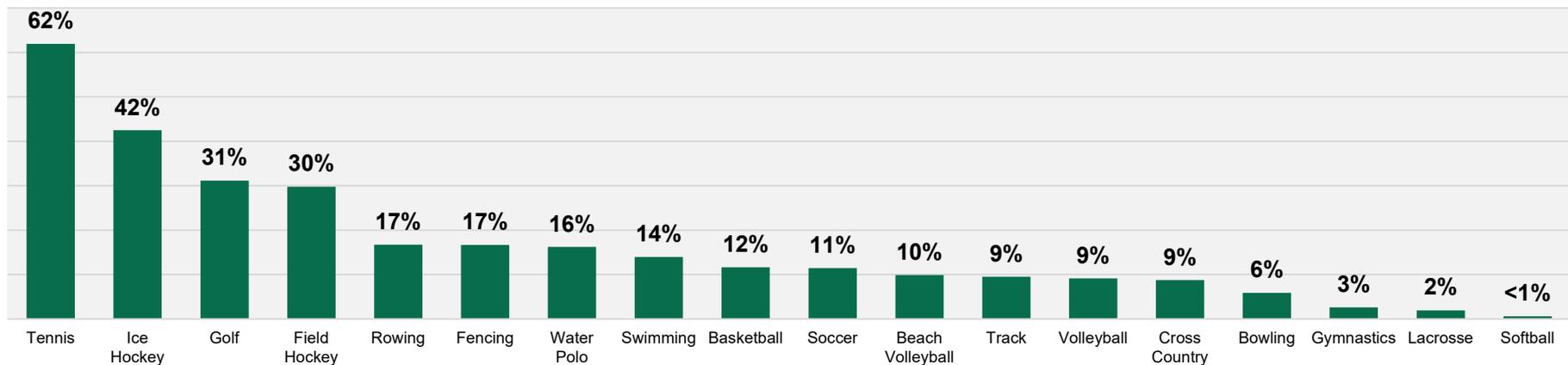
Note: Data shown are for first-year student-athletes.

Division I

Percentage of International Student-Athletes in Division I Men's Sports

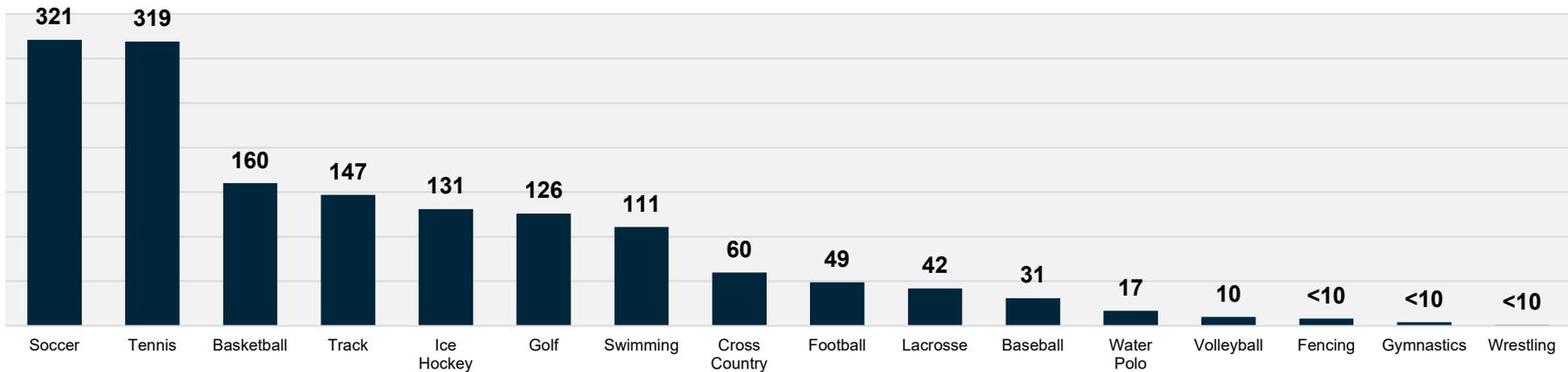


Percentage of International Student-Athletes in Division I Women's Sports

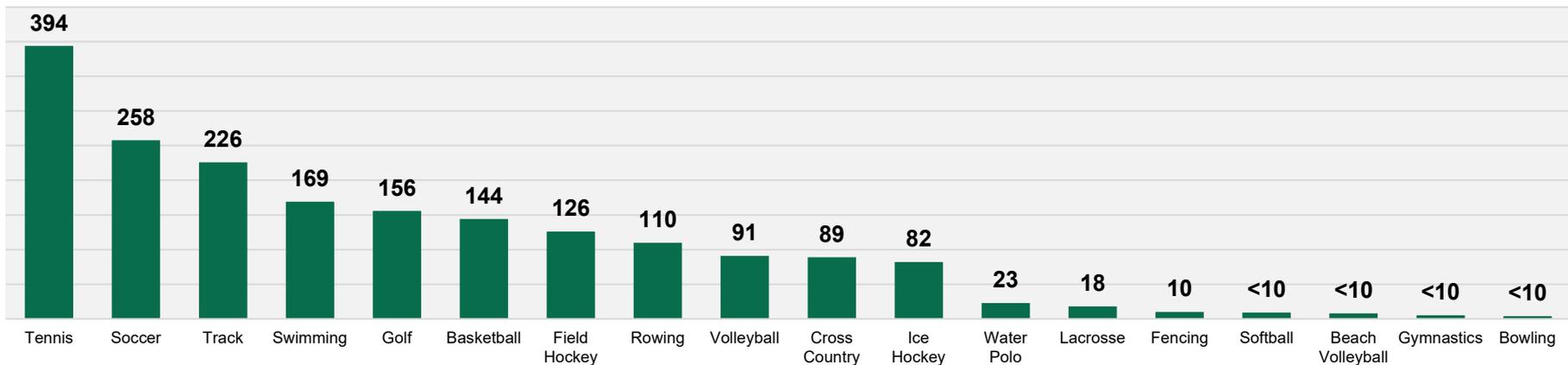


Note: Sports with >200 Division I student-athletes. Data shown are for first-year student-athletes (2018).

Number of First-Year International Student-Athletes in Division I Men's Sports



Number of First-Year International Student-Athletes in Division I Women's Sports



Note: Sports with >200 Division I student-athletes. Data shown are for first-year student-athletes (2018).

Top Ten Nations of Origin by Percentage of First-Year Division I International Student-Athletes

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
CANADA	28.5%	27.4%	28.1%	24.3%	23.0%	22.2%
UNITED KINGDOM	9.2%	9.2%	7.5%	8.3%	6.9%	8.6%
GERMANY	7.3%	6.4%	6.4%	5.3%	6.2%	6.2%
AUSTRALIA	4.4%	5.3%	5.2%	5.2%	5.5%	5.0%
SPAIN	2.8%	3.5%	4.6%	4.6%	4.1%	4.9%
SWEDEN	4.3%	3.9%	3.8%	3.8%	3.7%	3.3%
NEW ZEALAND	2.1%	2.2%	2.2%	2.6%	2.9%	2.6%
NETHERLANDS	1.8%	2.0%	1.2%	1.9%	2.0%	2.5%
FRANCE	1.4%	2.2%	2.0%	2.1%	2.4%	2.2%
ITALY	0.8%	0.8%	1.0%	1.4%	2.1%	2.1%

Note: Nations sorted by the highest (by percentage) representation of first-year international student-athletes in 2018. In 2013, international first-year student-athletes came from 106 nations and independent territories, in 2018 this number rose to 122. Two countries in the 2013 Top Ten did not make the 2018 list: Mexico (1.6% in 2013, 1.2% in 2018) and Brazil (2.1% in 2013, 1.3% in 2018).

Top Ten Nations of Origin by Number of First-Year Division I International Student-Athletes

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
CANADA	695	736	771	714	733	737
UNITED KINGDOM	224	247	206	245	221	285
GERMANY	178	171	176	156	198	206
AUSTRALIA	108	142	142	152	174	167
SPAIN	68	94	126	136	132	164
SWEDEN	104	105	104	111	119	109
NEW ZEALAND	52	58	60	75	93	87
NETHERLANDS	45	55	32	56	64	82
FRANCE	34	58	55	63	76	72
ITALY	19	22	28	42	66	71

Note: Nations sorted by the highest number of first-year international student-athletes in 2018. In 2013, international first-year student-athletes came from 106 nations and independent territories, in 2018 this number rose to 122. Two countries in the 2013 top ten did not make the 2018 list: Mexico (N=39 in 2013, 41 in 2018) and Brazil (N=52 in 2013, 44 in 2018).

Top Three Countries of Origin Among First-Year International Student-Athletes in Division I

Division I Men's Sports							
Soccer	N	Tennis	N	Basketball	N	Track	N
UNITED KINGDOM	53	SPAIN	38	CANADA	27	KENYA	29
CANADA	42	UNITED KINGDOM	33	AUSTRALIA	23	UNITED KINGDOM	14
GERMANY	31	GERMANY	22	SERBIA	9	CANADA	13

Division I Women's Sports							
Tennis	N	Soccer	N	Track	N	Swimming	N
SPAIN	33	CANADA	106	CANADA	44	CANADA	31
RUSSIA	32	UNITED KINGDOM	38	GERMANY	27	UNITED KINGDOM	14
GERMANY	28	GERMANY	22	KENYA	22	SWEDEN	12

Note: Sports included are the four sports with the highest number of international SA participants. Top three countries of origin for first-year international SAs in the 2018 APR cohort.

Percent Change in the Number of International Student-Athletes in Division I from 2013 to 2018

Division I Men's Sports			
	2013	2018	% change
SOCCER	198	321	62%
FOOTBALL	31	49	58%
BASKETBAL	119	160	34%
BASEBALL	24	31	29%
TENNIS	262	319	22%
GOLF	105	126	20%
LACROSSE	35	42	20%
TRACK	126	147	17%
SWIMMING	97	111	14%
CROSS COUNTRY	53	60	13%
ICE HOCKEY	118	131	11%

Division I Women's Sports			
	2013	2018	% change
ROWING	56	110	96%
BASKETBALL	74	144	95%
FIELD HOCKEY	69	126	83%
VOLLEYBALL	57	91	60%
SOCCER	178	258	45%
TRACK	162	226	40%
SWIMMING	125	169	35%
GOLF	116	156	34%
TENNIS	313	394	26%
CROSS COUNTRY	71	89	25%
ICE HOCKEY	82	82	0%

Note: Sports with >30 first-year international DI student-athletes in 2018. Data shown are for first-year student-athletes.

Change in the Percentage of International Student-Athletes in Division I from 2013 to 2018

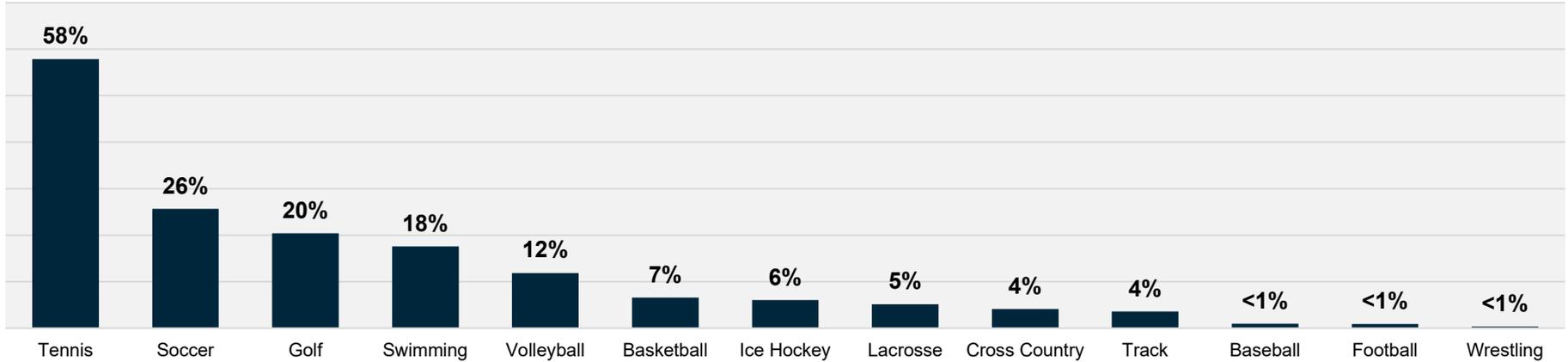
Division I Men's Sports			
	2013	2018	% diff.
FENCING	5%	17%	12%
SOCCER	21%	34%	12%
WATER POLO	10%	20%	10%
VOLLEYBALL	6%	15%	9%
TENNIS	54%	63%	9%
GYMNASTICS	0%	8%	8%
BASKETBALL	11%	15%	4%
GOLF	18%	21%	3%
TRACK	8%	9%	1%
SWIMMING	14%	16%	1%
CROSS COUNTRY	8%	8%	1%
BASEBALL	1%	2%	0%
FOOTBALL	1%	1%	0%
LACROSSE	6%	7%	0%
ICE HOCKEY	36%	36%	0%
WRESTLING	0%	0%	0%

Division I Women's Sports			
	2013	2018	% diff.
FIELD HOCKEY	18%	30%	11%
TENNIS	51%	62%	11%
GOLF	24%	31%	8%
ROWING	10%	17%	6%
BASKETBALL	6%	12%	5%
WATER POLO	12%	16%	4%
VOLLEYBALL	6%	9%	3%
SOCCER	8%	11%	3%
SWIMMING	11%	14%	3%
TRACK	7%	9%	2%
CROSS COUNTRY	7%	9%	1%
LACROSSE	1%	2%	0%
FENCING	17%	17%	0%
SOFTBALL	1%	1%	0%
BOWLING	6%	6%	-1%
GYMNASTICS	5%	3%	-3%
ICE HOCKEY	47%	42%	-5%

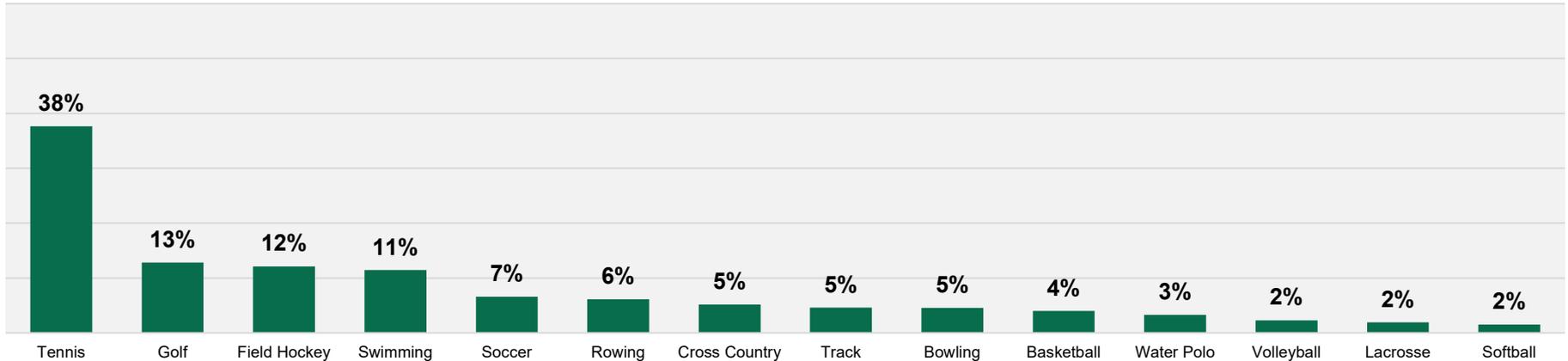
Note: Graphic is limited to those sports with >200 Division I student-athletes. Data shown are for first-year student-athletes. Columns rounded to the nearest whole number.

Division II

Percentage of International Student-Athletes in Division II Men's Sports

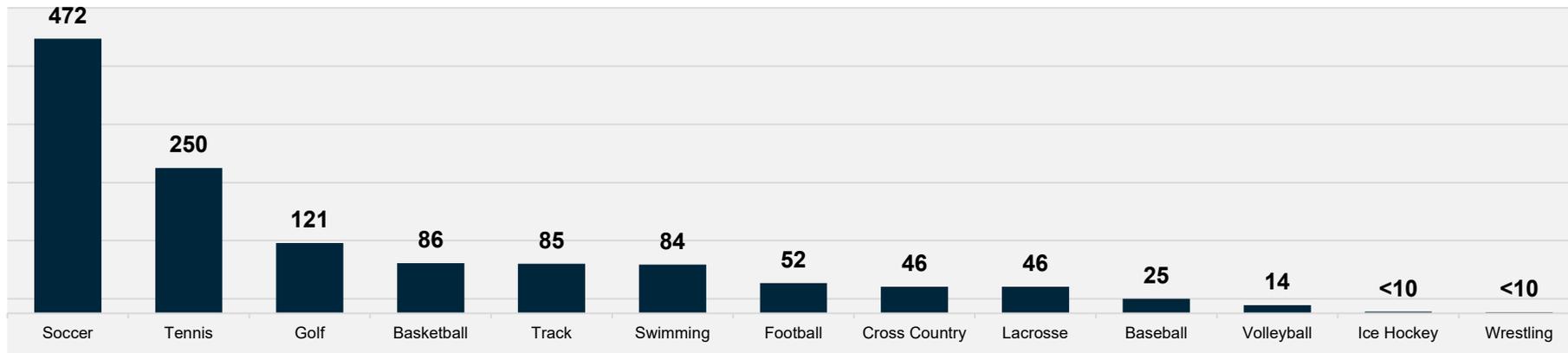


Percentage of International Student-Athletes in Division II Women's Sports

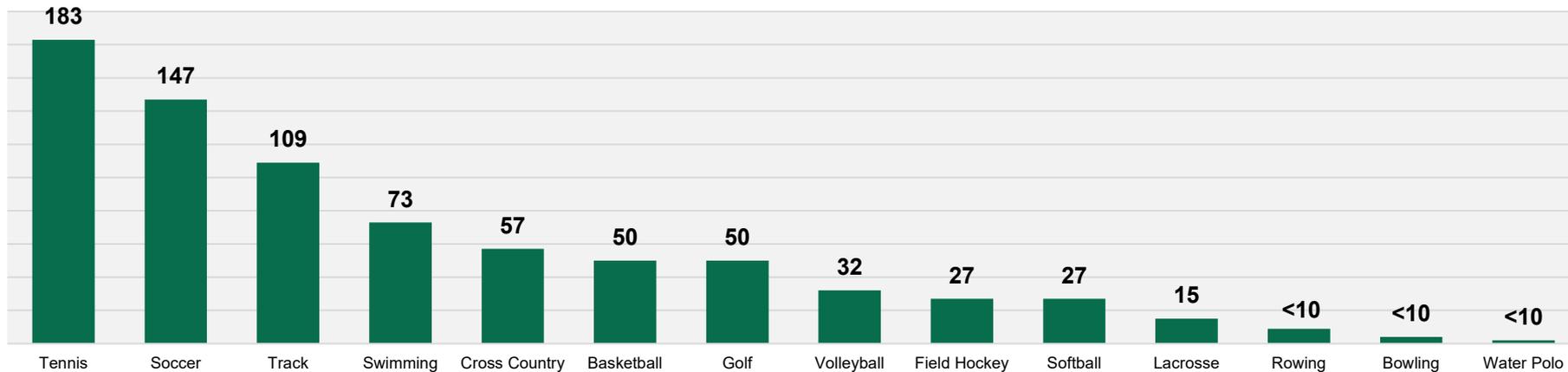


Note: Sports with >200 Division II student-athletes. Data shown are for first-year student-athletes (2018).

Number of First-Year International Student-Athletes in Division II Men's Sports



Number of First-Year International Student-Athletes in Division II Women's Sports



Note: Sports with >200 Division II student-athletes. Data shown are for first-year student-athletes (2018).

Top Ten Nations of Origin by Percent of First-Year Division II International Student-Athletes

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
CANADA	24.3%	20.8%	20.7%	19.9%	17.4%	16.5%
UNITED KINGDOM	13.8%	12.4%	11.3%	11.9%	10.5%	9.3%
GERMANY	6.0%	8.5%	7.2%	6.9%	8.4%	7.5%
SPAIN	3.9%	5.8%	5.9%	6.2%	6.6%	6.6%
SWEDEN	4.1%	4.3%	5.3%	5.3%	4.7%	5.0%
BRAZIL	5.1%	5.6%	4.5%	5.4%	4.7%	4.7%
AUSTRALIA	2.8%	3.6%	4.4%	3.7%	3.3%	4.1%
FRANCE	1.2%	2.4%	2.0%	2.2%	2.3%	2.4%
NORWAY	1.8%	1.4%	1.6%	1.6%	2.3%	2.4%
ITALY	0.7%	1.0%	1.2%	1.2%	2.3%	2.2%

Note: Nations sorted by the highest (by percentage) representation of first-year international student-athletes in 2018. In 2013, international first-year student-athletes came from 109 nations and independent territories, in 2018 this number rose to 120. Three countries in the 2013 Top Ten did not make the 2018 list: Mexico (1.8% in 2013, 1.9% in 2018), Netherlands (1.5% in 2013, 2.0% in 2018) and Venezuela (1.5% in 2013, 0.9% in 2018).

Top Ten Nations of Origin by Number of First-Year Division II International Student-Athletes

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
CANADA	348	331	386	359	329	325
UNITED KINGDOM	198	198	210	215	198	183
GERMANY	86	136	134	124	159	149
SPAIN	56	92	109	111	124	130
SWEDEN	59	58	98	96	88	99
BRAZIL	73	89	84	97	88	92
AUSTRALIA	40	57	81	66	62	81
FRANCE	17	39	38	40	43	48
NORWAY	26	22	30	29	44	48
ITALY	10	16	22	22	44	44

Note: Nations sorted by the highest number of first-year international student-athletes in 2018. In 2013, international first-year student-athletes came from 109 nations and independent territories, in 2018 this number rose to 120. Three countries in the 2013 Top Ten did not make the 2018 list: Mexico (N=26 in 2013, 40 in 2018), Netherlands (22 in 2013, 40 in 2018) and Venezuela (22 in 2013, 18 in 2018).

Top Three Countries of Origin Among First-Year International Student-Athletes in Division II

Division II Men's Sports							
Soccer	N	Tennis	N	Golf	N	Basketball	N
UNITED KINGDOM	79	BRAZIL	31	CANADA	33	AUSTRALIA	22
SWEDEN	38	SPAIN	31	UNITED KINGDOM	22	CANADA	8
GERMANY	35	GERMANY	28	MEXICO	9	SERBIA	8

Division II Women's Sports							
Tennis	N	Soccer	N	Track	N	Cross Country	N
GERMANY	22	CANADA	33	CANADA	21	CANADA	15
SPAIN	16	GERMANY	18	JAMAICA	13	KENYA	13
BRAZIL	15	UNITED KINGDOM	18	GERMANY	12	GERMANY	6

Note: Sports included are the four sports with the highest number of international SA participants. Top three countries of origin for first-year international SAs in the 2018 APC cohort.

Percent Change in the Number of International Student-Athletes in Division II from 2013 to 2018

Division II Men's Sports

	2013	2018	% change
LACROSSE	24	46	92%
SWIMMING	58	84	45%
TRACK	59	85	44%
SOCCER	331	472	43%
GOLF	88	121	38%
TENNIS	184	250	36%
BASKETBALL	75	86	15%
FOOTBALL	47	52	11%
CROSS COUNTRY	44	46	5%

Division II Women's Sports

	2013	2018	% change
TRACK	49	109	122%
BASKETBALL	26	50	92%
CROSS COUNTRY	32	57	78%
SWIMMING	41	73	78%
GOLF	39	50	28%
TENNIS	144	183	27%
SOCCER	133	147	11%
VOLLEYBALL	30	32	7%

Note: Sports with >30 first-year international DII student-athletes in 2018. Data shown are for first-year student-athletes.

Change in the Percentage of International Student-Athletes in Division II from 2013 to 2018

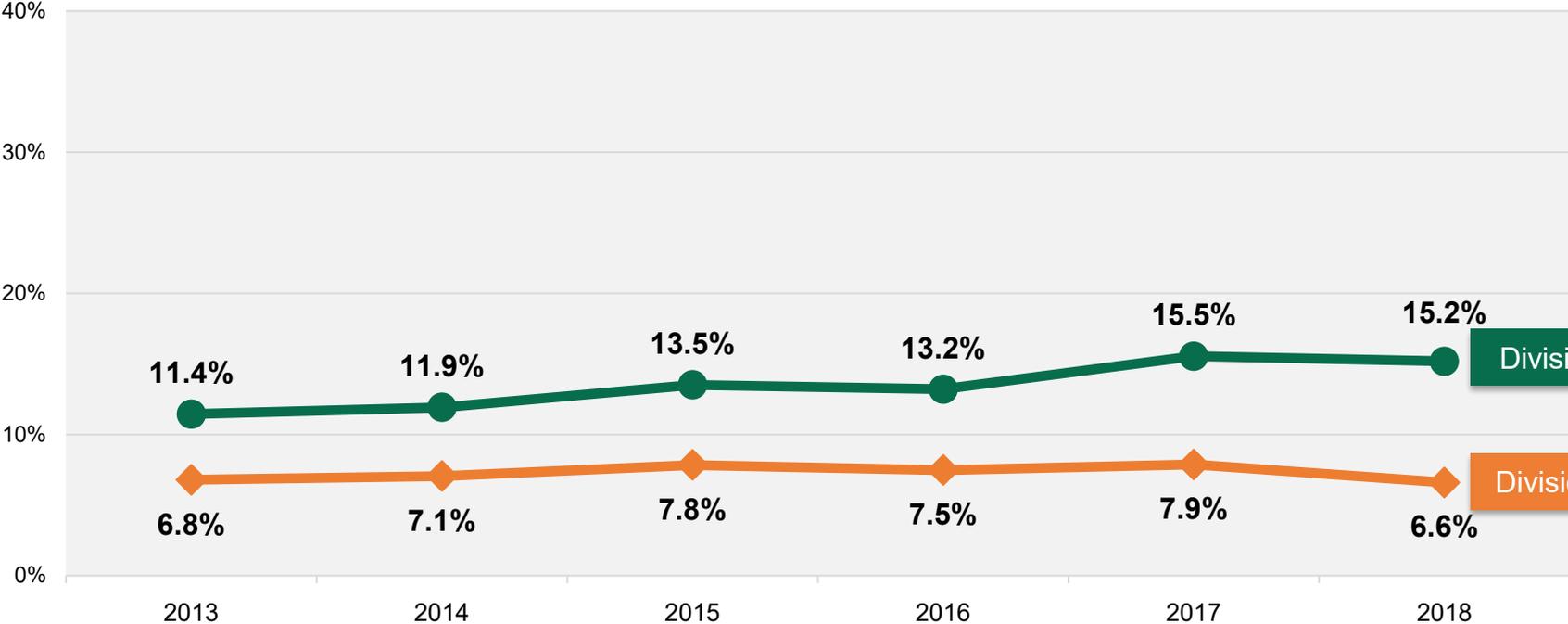
Division II Men's Sports			
	2013	2018	% diff.
TENNIS	45%	58%	13%
GOLF	13%	20%	7%
SOCCER	20%	26%	6%
SWIMMING	13%	18%	5%
VOLLEYBALL	10%	12%	2%
LACROSSE	4%	5%	1%
TRACK	3%	4%	0%
FOOTBALL	1%	1%	0%
BASKETBALL	7%	7%	0%
CROSS COUNTRY	5%	4%	0%
BASEBALL	2%	1%	-1%
ICE HOCKEY	7%	6%	-1%
WRESTLING	1%	0%	-1%

Division II Women's Sports			
	2013	2018	% diff.
TENNIS	25%	38%	13%
FIELD HOCKEY	4%	12%	8%
SWIMMING	8%	11%	3%
ROWING	3%	6%	3%
BOWLING	2%	5%	3%
GOLF	10%	13%	3%
CROSS COUNTRY	3%	5%	2%
TRACK	3%	5%	2%
BASKETBALL	2%	4%	2%
SOFTBALL	1%	2%	0%
SOCCER	6%	7%	0%
VOLLEYBALL	2%	2%	0%
LACROSSE	3%	2%	-1%
WATER POLO	6%	3%	-3%

Note: Graphic is limited to those sports with >200 Division II student-athletes. Data shown are for first-year student-athletes. Columns rounded to the nearest whole number.

Trends by Sport

Trends in Percentage of International Men's Basketball Student-Athletes



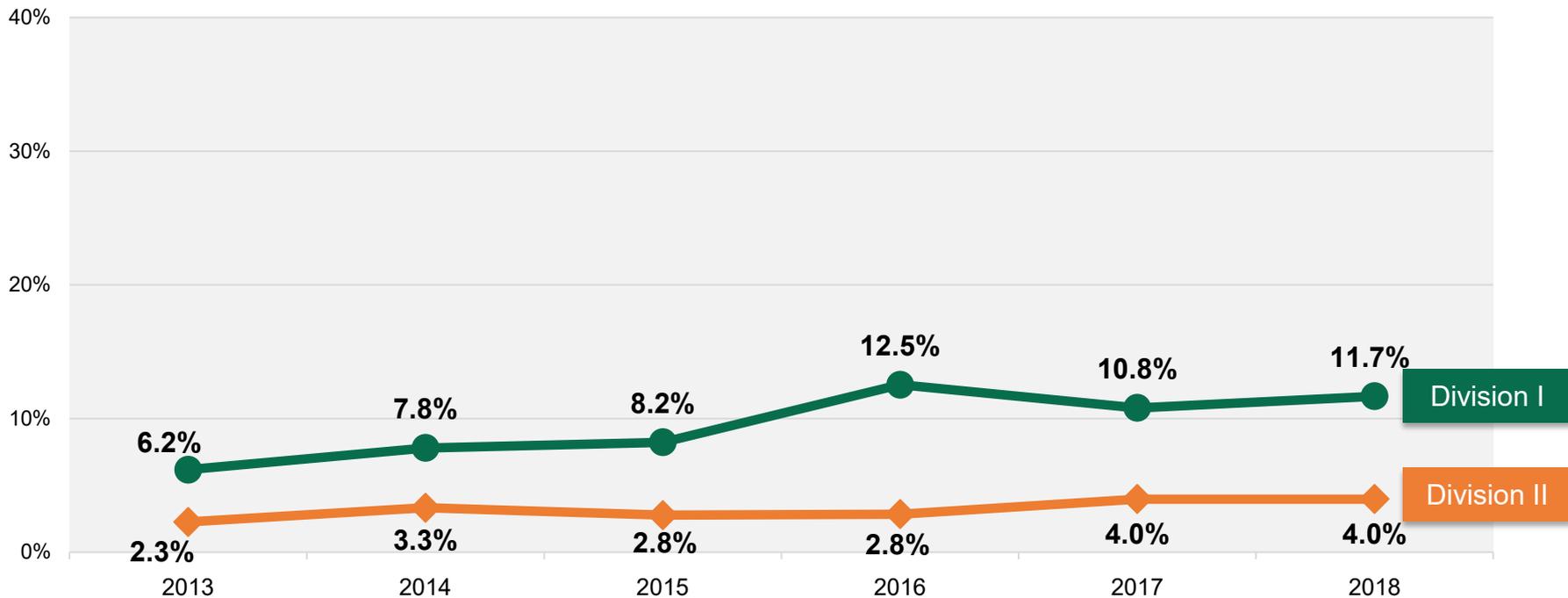
Total Numbers

	2013	2018
DI	119	160
DII	75	86

Note: Data shown are for first-year student-athletes.



Trends in Percentage of International Women's Basketball Student-Athletes

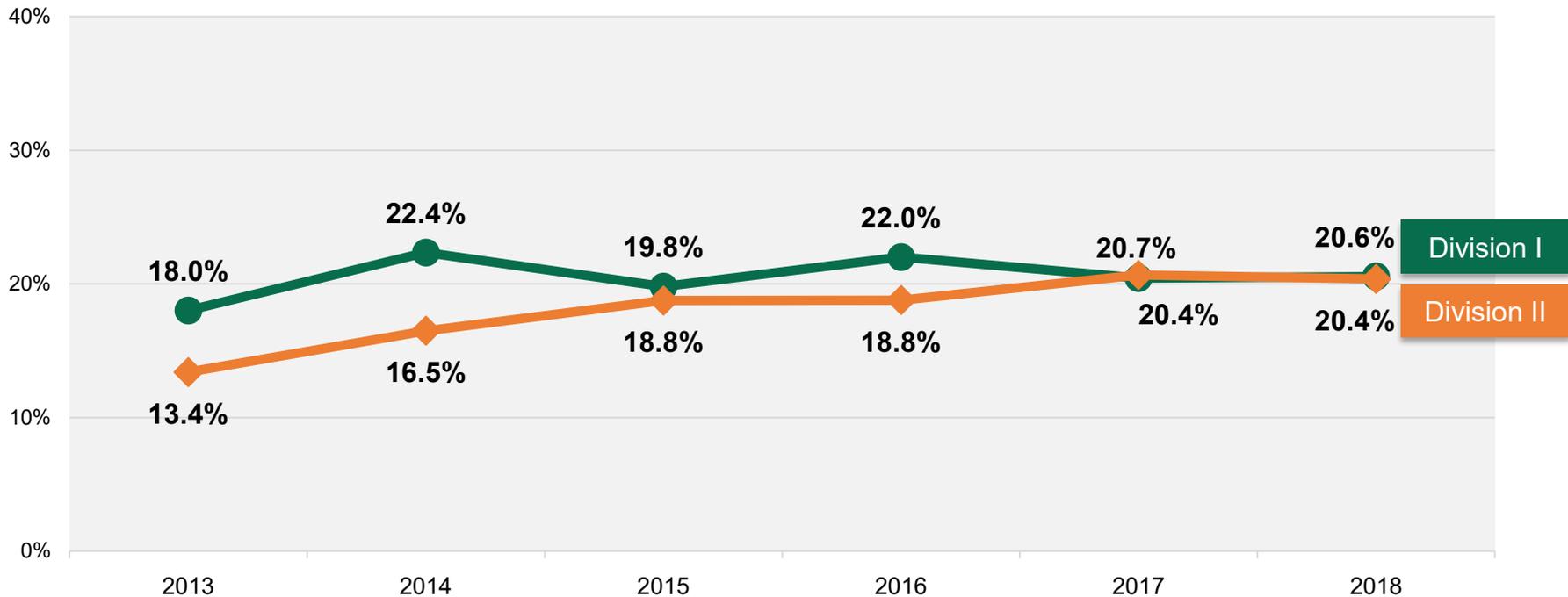


Total Numbers

	2013	2018
DI	74	144
DII	26	50

Note: Data shown are for first-year student-athletes.

Trends in Percentage of International Men's Golf Student-Athletes

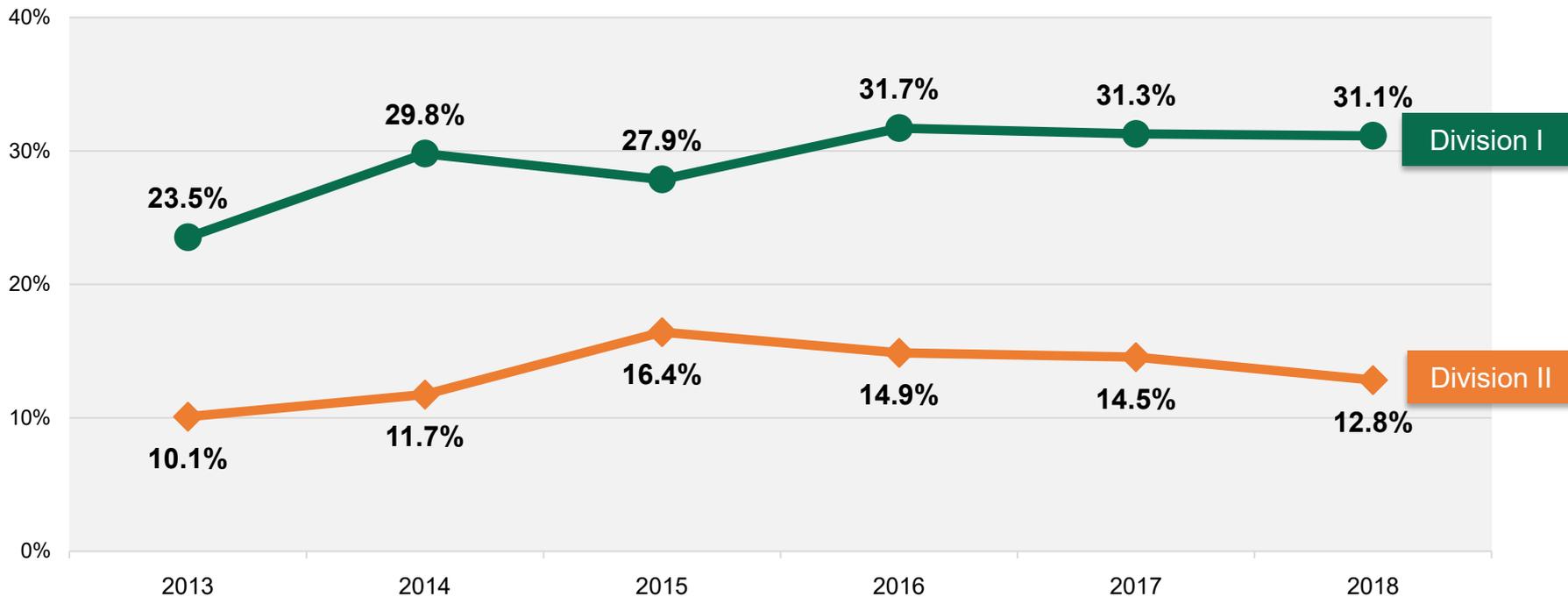


Total Numbers

	2013	2018
DI	105	126
DII	88	121

Note: Data shown are for first-year student-athletes.

Trends in Percentage of International Women's Golf Student-Athletes

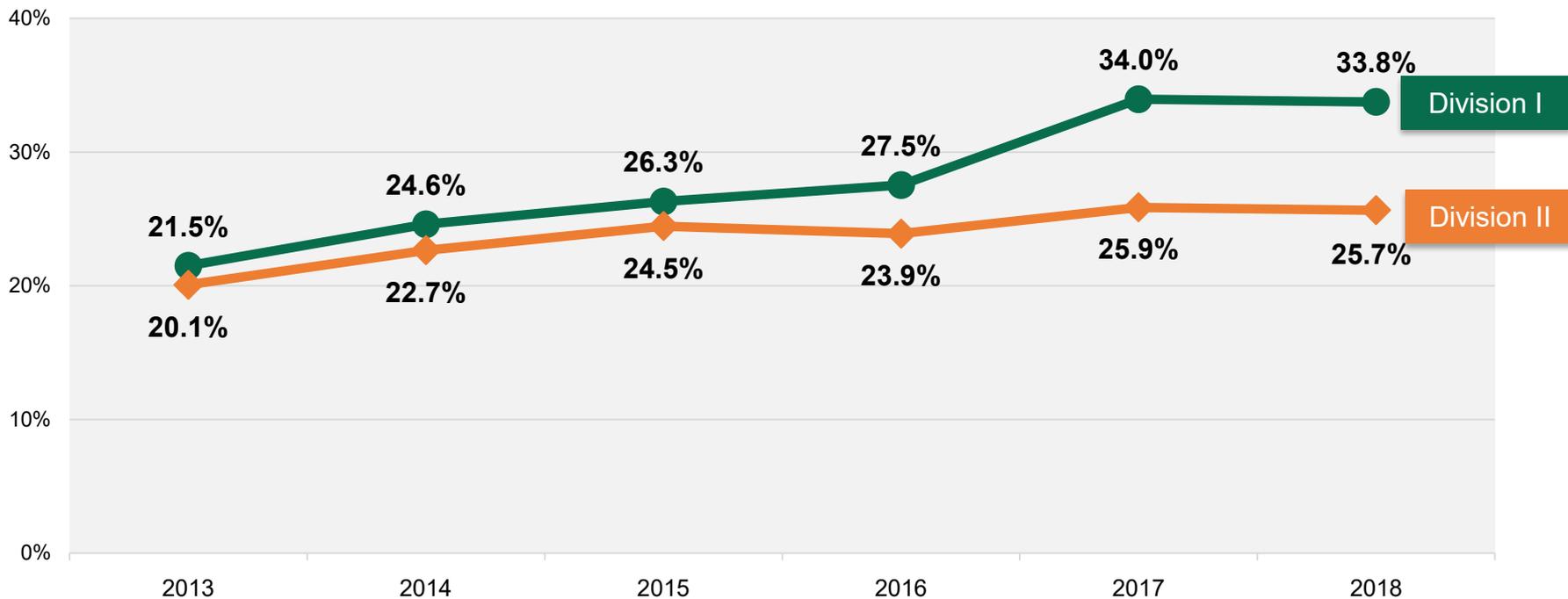


Total Numbers

	2013	2018
DI	116	156
DII	39	50

Note: Data shown are for first-year student-athletes.

Trends in Percentage of International Men's Soccer Student-Athletes

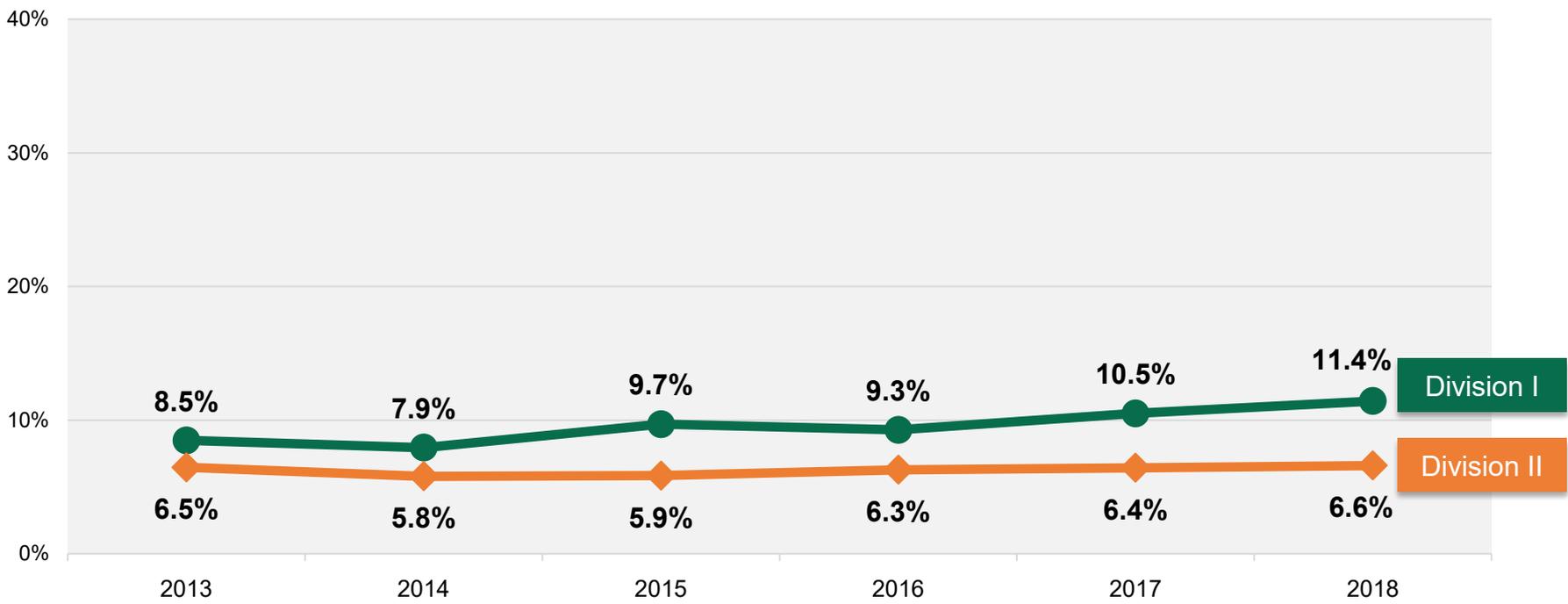


Total Numbers

	2013	2018
DI	198	321
DII	331	472

Note: Data shown are for first-year student-athletes.

Trends in Percentage of International Women's Soccer Student-Athletes



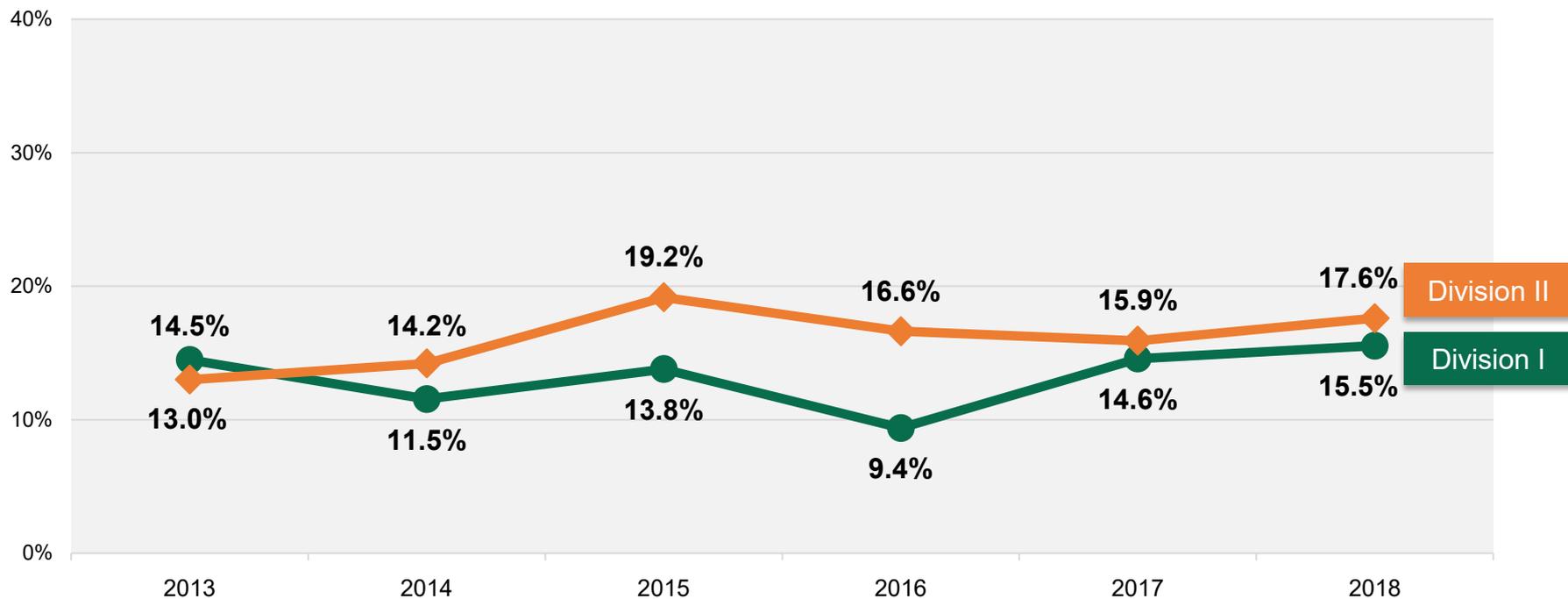
Total Numbers

	2013	2018
DI	178	258
DII	133	147

Note: Data shown are for first-year student-athletes.



Trends in Percentage of International Men's Swimming & Diving Student-Athletes

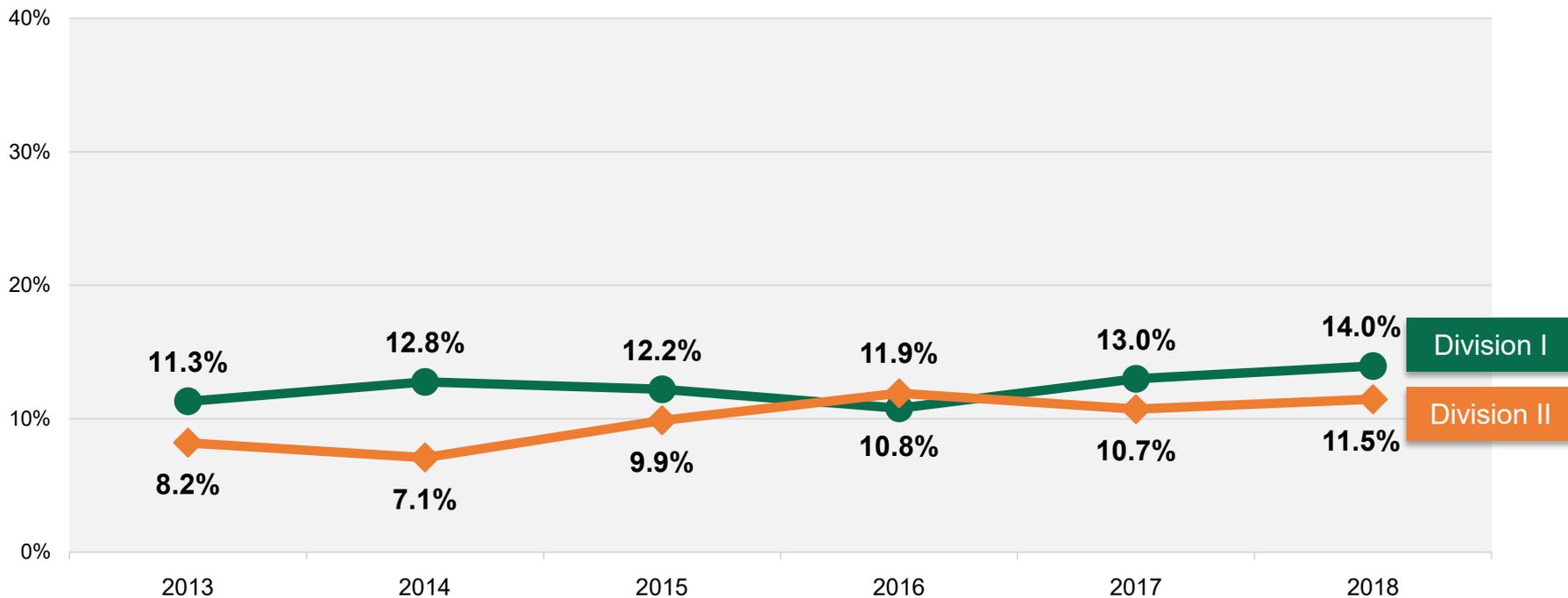


Total Numbers

	2013	2018
DI	97	111
DII	58	84

Note: Data shown are for first-year student-athletes.

Trends in Percentage of International Women's Swimming & Diving Student-Athletes

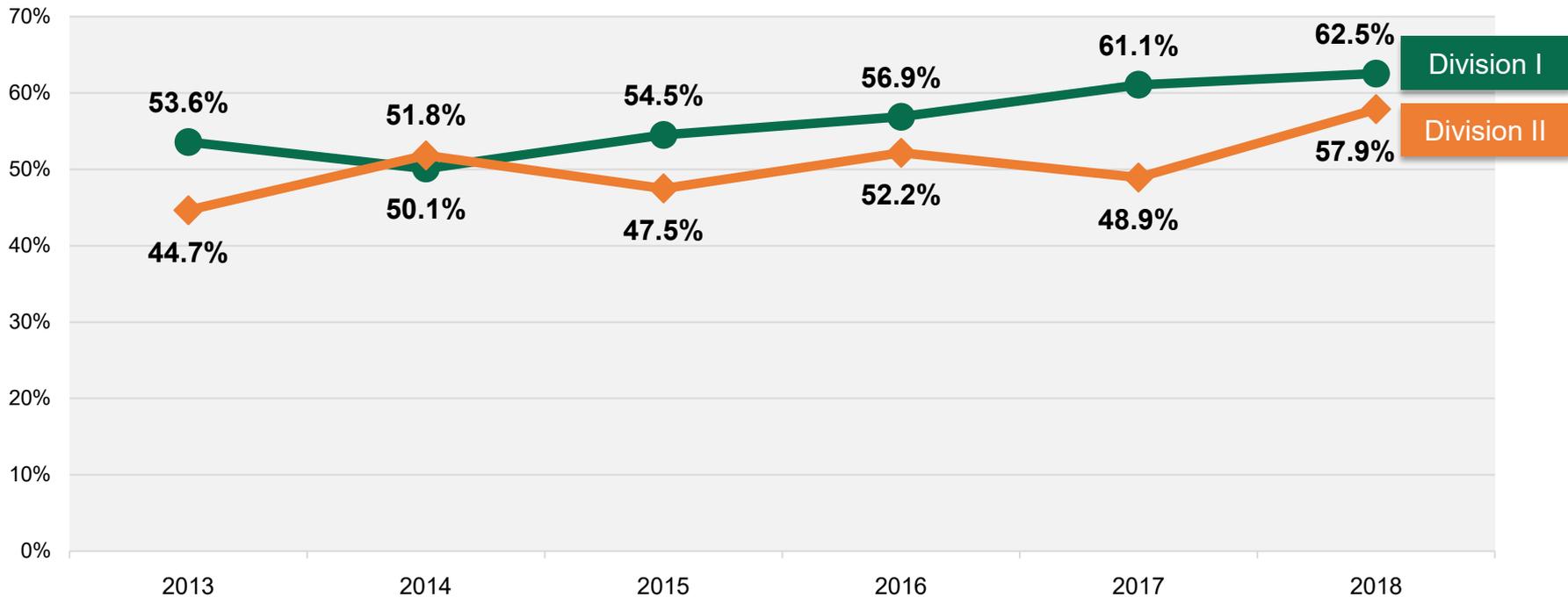


Total Numbers

	2013	2018
DI	125	169
DII	41	73

Note: Data shown are for first-year student-athletes.

Trends in Percentage of International Men's Tennis Student-Athletes

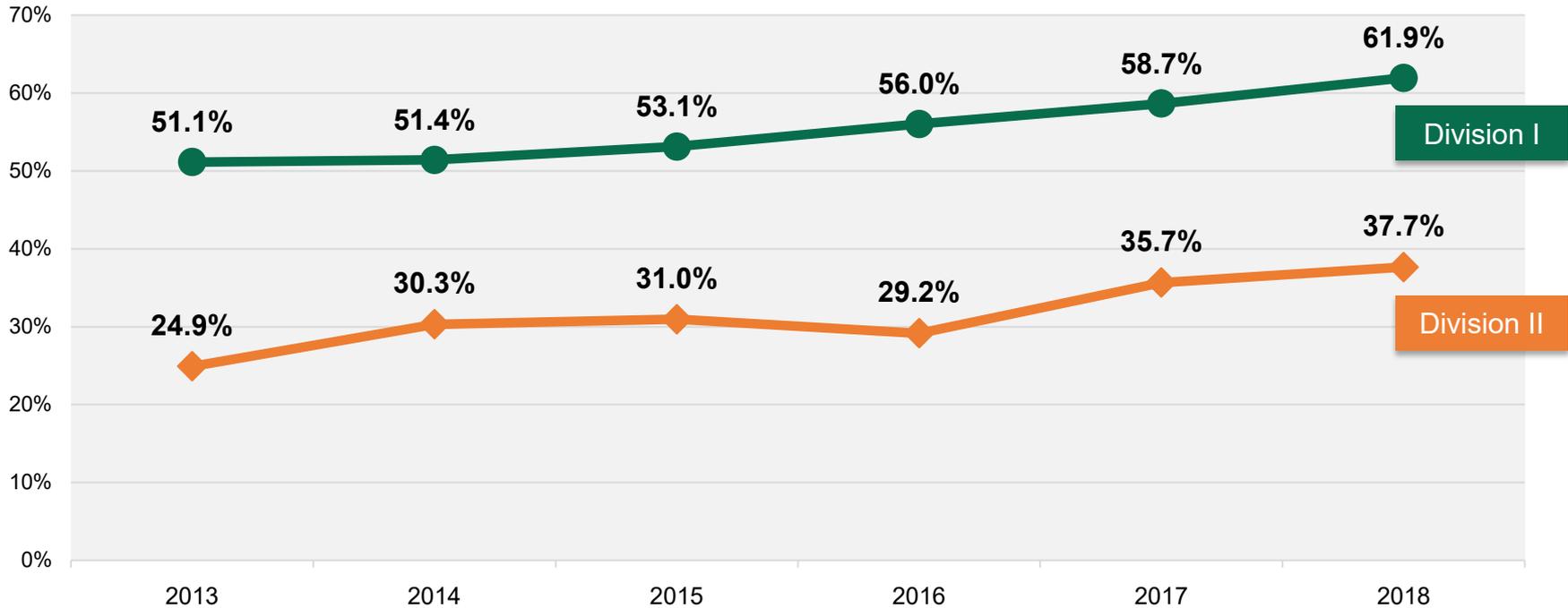


Total Numbers

	2013	2018
DI	262	319
DII	184	250

Note: Data shown are for first-year student-athletes.

Trends in Percentage of International Women's Tennis Student-Athletes

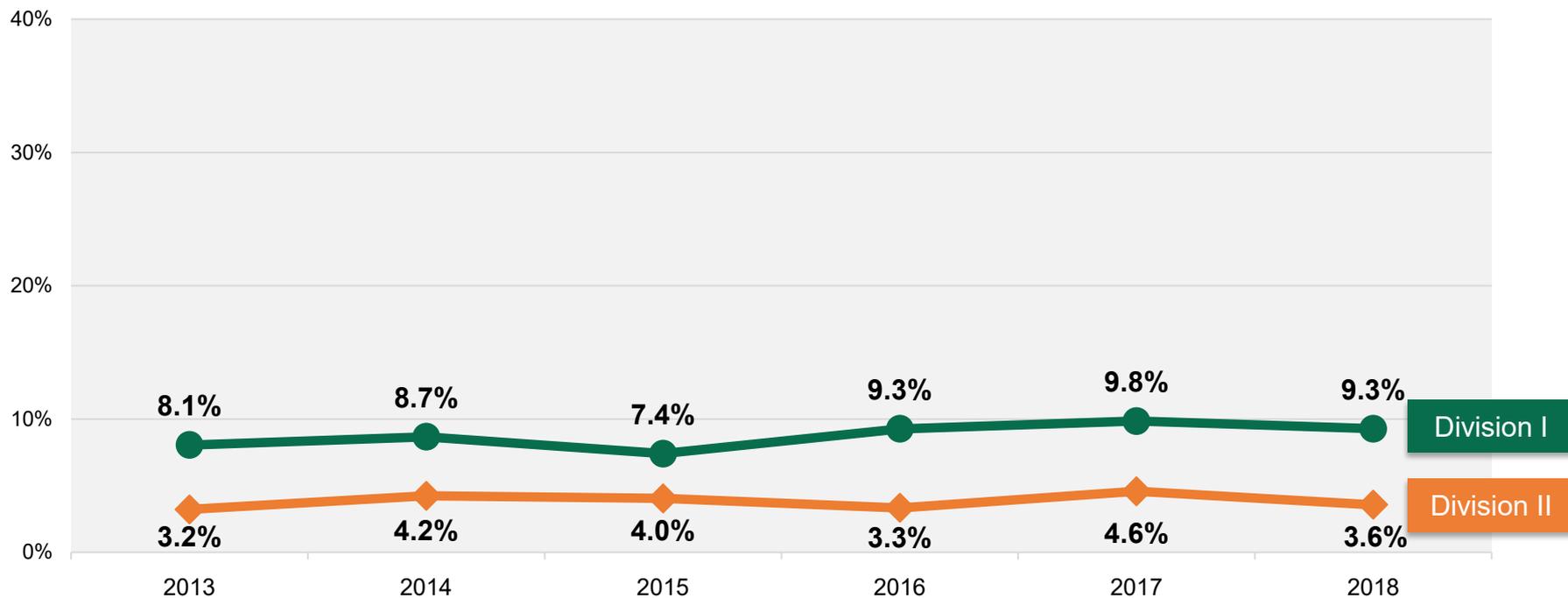


Total Numbers

	2013	2018
DI	313	394
DII	144	183

Note: Data shown are for first-year student-athletes.

Trends in Percentage of International Men's Track & Field Student-Athletes

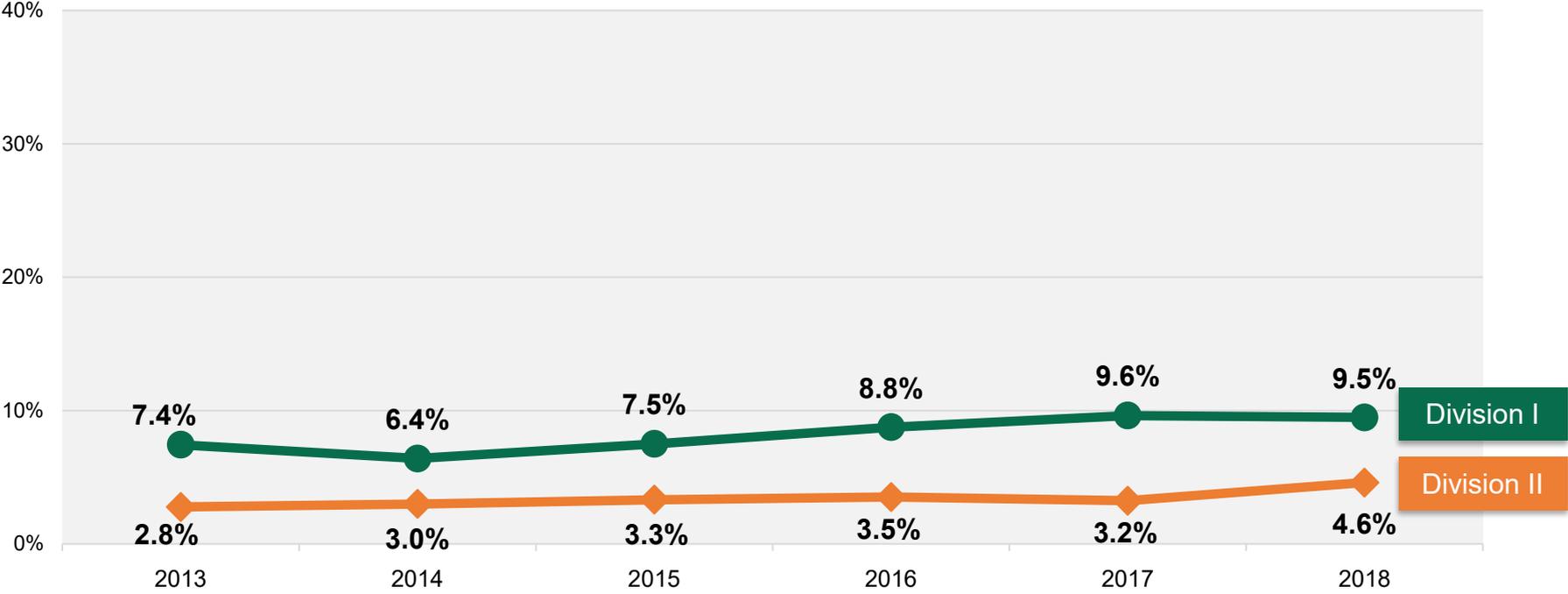


Total Numbers

	2013	2018
DI	126	147
DII	59	85

Note: Data shown are for first-year student-athletes.

Trends in Percentage of International Women's Track & Field Student-Athletes



Total Numbers

	2013	2018
DI	162	226
DII	49	109

Note: Data shown are for first-year student-athletes.



Detailed Methodology

- ▶ Prospective student-athletes (PSAs) who wish to compete in Division I or Division II must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center. All PSAs are assigned a unique NCAA ID number in the process.
- ▶ Country is captured during registration when PSAs enter their home address. Previous country is input for PSAs submitting high school transcripts from an additional country. NCAA research determined country of origin using the country listed in all cases except for PSAs listing a U.S. address who also listed a non-U.S. previous country. In those cases, country of origin was set to the previous country. For example, the country of origin for a PSA residing in the U.S. during senior year of high school who was previously enrolled at a high school in Argentina is Argentina.
- ▶ Matching on NCAA ID, we merged country of origin with Division I and Division II academic cohort data, which allowed us to determine country of origin for student-athletes in each sport's cohort. Due to data corrections and the movement of schools or sports in and out of each division, data for each academic cohort is rerun annually, which may result in slight changes to the percentages previously reported.
- ▶ Country of origin for Division III student-athletes was not included because Division III student-athletes are not required to register with the Eligibility Center. For this population, the only source of international participation in Division III is the [NCAA Demographic Database](#).
- ▶ The number and percentage of international student-athletes within the academic data is higher than captured in the NCAA Demographics Database. This may be because of the cohort restrictions (e.g. Division I academic cohorts are typically limited to student-athletes on scholarship) or because international student-athletes' race/ethnicity is input for them by someone who may assign another racial category (e.g. Asian, Black, White) rather than selecting "Non-resident Alien," which is included as one of the race/ethnicity options within the NCAA Demographics Database.



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