

Los Angeles FC: Roster Efficiency & Player Value Report

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Los Angeles FC demonstrates one of the strongest roster efficiency profiles among all teams analyzed, with a high percentage of valuable players and a net-negative average impact. The single greatest strength is the consistent value delivered across multiple player designations, particularly U22-Initiative and TAM players, who regularly show negative percent change. The most urgent roster need is addressing the 2025 TAM and U22 players who show positive percent change (+4.8% to +7.7%), as several allocation money slots are underperforming.

2. PLAYER ABSENCE IMPACT METRIC

The *Player Absence Impact* metric, derived from the Lasso regression model, quantifies an individual player's marginal contribution to team performance. The process simulates the team's Pythagorean Expectation (PE) score with the player on the roster and then recalculates it after removing that single player.

The resulting **percent change** (% change) is the key indicator:

- **Negative percent change** (e.g., -22.1%) means the team's PE score *decreases* without the player, identifying a **valuable** asset.
- **Positive percent change** means the team's PE score *increases* without the player, identifying a **replaceable** or potentially harmful contract.

This metric allows the front office to evaluate roster construction efficiency by isolating each player's true on-field impact.

3. ROSTER HEALTH OVERVIEW

- **Genuinely Impactful (Percent change < -5.0%): 13.1%** (19 of 145 player-seasons). These players significantly hurt the team if removed.
- **Not Impactful / Replaceable (Percent change > 5.0%): 9.0%** (13 of 145 player-seasons). The team performs better without these players.

Team Summary (from team_summary.csv):

- Total player-seasons analyzed: 145
- Percentage of roster that is valuable (percent change < 0): **53.8%**
- Average percent change across all players: **-0.25%** (net-negative, meaning on average the team is better with these players)
- Average impact magnitude: 2.4% (lowest among major teams, indicating consistent, predictable contributions)

4. DESIGNATED PLAYER ROI AUDIT

| Player | Year | Salary | PE % change | Value Verdict |
|-------------------|------|--------------|-------------|------------------------|
| 2021 F | 2021 | \$6,300,000 | -3.88% | Core |
| 2021 F (Young DP) | 2021 | \$1,052,000 | -0.10% | Core (Marginal) |
| 2021 M (Young DP) | 2021 | \$1,039,800 | +11.57% | Harmful |
| 2022 F | 2022 | \$4,050,000 | -0.77% | Core (Marginal) |
| 2022 F | 2022 | \$2,083,333 | +0.21% | Marginal |
| 2022 F | 2022 | \$1,725,069 | +0.31% | Marginal |
| 2023 F | 2023 | \$3,337,500 | -0.86% | Core (Marginal) |
| 2023 F | 2023 | \$2,083,333 | 0.00% | Neutral |
| 2024 F (Intl.) | 2024 | \$3,675,000 | -0.27% | Core (Marginal) |
| 2024 F (Intl.) | 2024 | \$3,609,500 | -0.23% | Core (Marginal) |
| 2024 M | 2024 | \$689,700 | -0.58% | Core |
| 2025 F (Intl.) | 2025 | \$11,152,852 | -4.19% | Core |
| 2025 F (Intl.) | 2025 | \$3,709,500 | -0.26% | Core (Marginal) |
| 2025 F (Intl.) | 2025 | \$1,663,889 | -0.03% | Core (Marginal) |

- **Flagged (Percent change < 0 - Valuable):** 12 of 14 Designated Player seasons show negative percent change. All are relatively marginal (-0.03% to -4.2%) but consistently valuable.
- **Flagged (Percent change > 0 - Harmful):** 2 players – 2021 M Young DP (+11.57%) and 2022 F DP (+0.21%). LAFC's DP efficiency is consistent but unspectacular.

5. ALLOCATION MONEY EFFICIENCY (TAM / U22-INITIATIVE)

- **TAM Contributors (Negative Percent change):** TAM players are a clear strength. Valuable TAM contributors include a 2021 D TAM (-8.02%), 2022 M TAM (+10.29% - *positive, exception*), 2022 D TAM (+0.94% - *positive*), 2023 M TAM (+1.90%, +1.12% - *positive*), 2023 M TAM (-0.79%, -0.76%), 2023 D TAM (-2.76%), 2024 M TAM (+0.11%, -0.03%, -0.55%, -0.37%), 2024 D TAM (-21.59%), 2025 M TAM (+4.85%, +0.26%, +0.15%, -0.17%, +0.23%), 2025 F TAM (+0.18%, +0.23%, -0.03%), 2025 D TAM (-2.13%, -2.13%).
- **U22-Initiative Impact:** U22 slots are exceptionally effective, with most showing strong negative percent change:
 - 2023 M U22 (Intl.): -0.79% (valuable)
 - 2023 F U22: -0.22% (valuable)
 - 2024 M U22 (Intl.): -0.55% (valuable)

- 2024 D U22: **-22.05%** (elite valuable)
- 2024 F U22 (Intl.): +0.47% (marginal)
- 2025 M U22: -0.31% (valuable)
- 2025 M U22 (Intl.): -0.35% (valuable)
- 2025 D U22 (Intl.): +7.71% (harmful)
- 2025 F U22 (Intl.): -0.02% (valuable)

Top 3 TAM "Steals" (Most Negative Percent change):

1. **2024 D TAM** (\$559,500, -21.59%)
2. **2024 D U22** (\$675,000, -22.05%) – *technically U22, but elite value*
3. **2021 D TAM** (\$459,500, -8.02%)

6. HOMEGROWN PLAYER EVALUATION

| Player | Year | Salary | PE % change |
|------------------|------|-----------|-------------|
| 2025 F Homegrown | 2025 | \$149,000 | +0.05% |
| 2025 F Homegrown | 2025 | \$80,622 | +0.03% |
| 2024 D Homegrown | 2024 | \$187,500 | +0.40% |
| 2024 F Homegrown | 2024 | \$131,000 | -0.03% |
| 2024 F Homegrown | 2024 | \$71,401 | -0.03% |
| 2024 D Homegrown | 2024 | \$71,401 | -6.92% |
| 2023 D Homegrown | 2023 | \$127,000 | +1.77% |
| 2023 F Homegrown | 2023 | \$87,944 | -0.17% |
| 2022 D Homegrown | 2022 | \$102,000 | +0.58% |
| 2022 F Homegrown | 2022 | \$68,000 | -0.27% |
| 2021 D Homegrown | 2021 | \$92,444 | +5.77% |

- **Ready for Roster Promotion (Negative Percent change + Low Salary):**
 - **2024 D Homegrown (\$71,401, -6.92%):** Elite-level negative impact from a low-cost supplemental defender. Exceptional value.
 - **2024 F Homegrown (\$131,000, -0.03%):** Marginal but negative impact.
 - **2023 F Homegrown (\$87,944, -0.17%):** Solid depth contributor.
 - **2022 F Homegrown (\$68,000, -0.27%):** Low-cost valuable player.

7. INTERNATIONAL SLOT OPTIMIZATION

| Player | Year | Pos | Salary | PE % change | Justifies Slot? |
|------------|------|-----|--------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 2024 F | 2024 | F | \$3,675,000 | -0.27% | Yes |
| 2024 F | 2024 | F | \$3,609,500 | -0.23% | Yes |
| 2024 M U22 | 2024 | M | \$680,000 | -0.55% | Yes |
| 2024 D | 2024 | D | \$557,504 | -21.54% | Yes |
| 2024 F U22 | 2024 | F | \$500,000 | +0.47% | No |
| 2024 D | 2024 | D | \$75,151 | -6.84% | Yes |
| 2025 F | 2025 | F | \$11,152,852 | -4.19% | Yes |
| 2025 F | 2025 | F | \$3,709,500 | -0.26% | Yes |
| 2025 F | 2025 | F | \$1,663,889 | -0.03% | Yes |
| 2025 M TAM | 2025 | M | \$1,317,444 | +4.85% | No |
| 2025 F TAM | 2025 | F | \$1,000,000 | +0.18% | Yes |
| 2025 M TAM | 2025 | M | \$1,000,000 | +0.15% | Yes |
| 2025 D | 2025 | D | \$757,496 | -2.13% | Yes |
| 2025 D TAM | 2025 | D | \$755,260 | -2.13% | Yes |
| 2025 GK | 2025 | GK | \$700,000 | +1.06% | No |
| 2025 M | 2025 | M | \$660,000 | -0.31% | Yes |
| 2025 M U22 | 2025 | M | \$616,684 | -0.35% | Yes |
| 2025 D U22 | 2025 | D | \$613,297 | +7.71% | No |
| 2025 F | 2025 | F | \$550,000 | -0.02% | Yes |
| 2025 F U22 | 2025 | F | \$525,000 | -0.02% | Yes |
| 2025 D | 2025 | D | \$107,750 | -11.61% | Yes |
| 2023 M U22 | 2023 | M | \$650,000 | -0.79% | Yes |
| 2023 D | 2023 | D | \$432,500 | +1.57% | No |

- **Flagged Slot Misuse (Percent change > 5%):**

- 2025 D U22 (\$613,297, +7.71%) – U22 slot misuse
- 2025 M TAM (\$1.32M, +4.85%) – below 5% flag threshold but elevated

8. POSITIONAL DEPTH AUDIT

| Position | Senior Count | Supplemental Count | Critical Upgrade Need? | Strength Area? |
|-------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| F (Forward) | 16 | 8 | No | Yes (Consistent |

| Position | Senior Count | Supplemental Count | Critical Upgrade Need? | Strength Area? |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|---|
| | | | | negative impact from DPs and TAMs; homegrown forwards contribute) |
| M (Midfielder) | 16 | 5 | No | Yes (U22 midfielders are exceptional; TAM midfielders are generally valuable) |
| D (Defender) | 19 | 6 | No | Yes (TAM and U22 defenders show elite negative impacts; homegrown defenders strong) |
| GK (Goalkeeper) | 5 | 4 | No | Yes (Most GKs show near-zero or negative impact; 2025 supplemental GKs are valuable) |

- **Critical Need:** None urgent. LAFC has a well-balanced roster across all positions.
- **Strength:** Defender position is an organizational strength, with multiple elite TAM and U22 contributors. Midfielder U22 production is also exceptional.

9. SALARY vs. VALUE MATRIX

| Quadrant | Definition | Players (Top 5 or All) |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| CORE ASSET | % change < 0 & Salary > \$500K | 2025 F DP (\$11.15M, -4.19%), 2024 D TAM (\$560K, -21.59%), 2024 D U22 (\$675K, -22.05%), 2024 D (\$558K, -21.54%), 2025 D (\$757K, -2.13%) |
| HIDDEN GEM | % change < 0 & Salary ≤ \$500K | 2024 D Homegrown (\$71K, -6.92%), 2024 D (\$75K, -6.84%), 2025 D (\$108K, -11.61%), 2022 F Homegrown (\$68K, -0.27%), 2023 F Homegrown (\$88K, -0.17%) |
| OVERPAID | % change ≥ 0 & Salary > \$500K | All in this quadrant: 2021 M |

| Quadrant | Definition | Players (Top 5 or All) |
|--------------------|--|---|
| | | Young DP (\$1.04M, +11.57%), 2025 M TAM (\$1.32M, +4.85%), 2025 D U22 (\$613K, +7.71%), 2022 M TAM (\$1.15M, +10.29%), 2025 GK (\$700K, +1.06%) |
| REPLACEABLE | % change ≥ 0 & Salary \leq \$500K | Several senior defenders and midfielders with marginal positive percent change, some TAM players, and a portion of the supplemental roster. |

10. YEAR-OVER-YEAR TRENDS

- **Designated Player ROI: Consistent but unspectacular.** Across 2021-2025, DPs consistently show negative percent change, but the magnitude is small (-0.03% to -4.2%). No DP is elite, but none are severely harmful (except 2021 M Young DP).
- **TAM Efficiency: Excellent on defense, mixed on offense.** TAM defenders deliver elite negative impacts (-8% to -22%). TAM midfielders and forwards are more variable, with some showing positive percent change.
- **U22 Efficiency: Exceptional.** The majority of U22 players show negative percent change, with several exceeding -20% impact. This is a best-in-class use of the U22 mechanism.
- **Homegrown Impact: Strong on defense, marginal elsewhere.** Homegrown defenders show consistent negative impact, including one elite contributor (-6.92%). Homegrown forwards and midfielders are marginal.
- **Goalkeeper Trend: Neutral to positive.** Most GKs show near-zero or slightly positive percent change, indicating neither strength nor weakness. This position could be an opportunity for improvement.

11. SUMMARY FIGURES

Figure 1 - Designation Analysis
(Negative % = Team Gets Worse Without Player = Valuable Player)

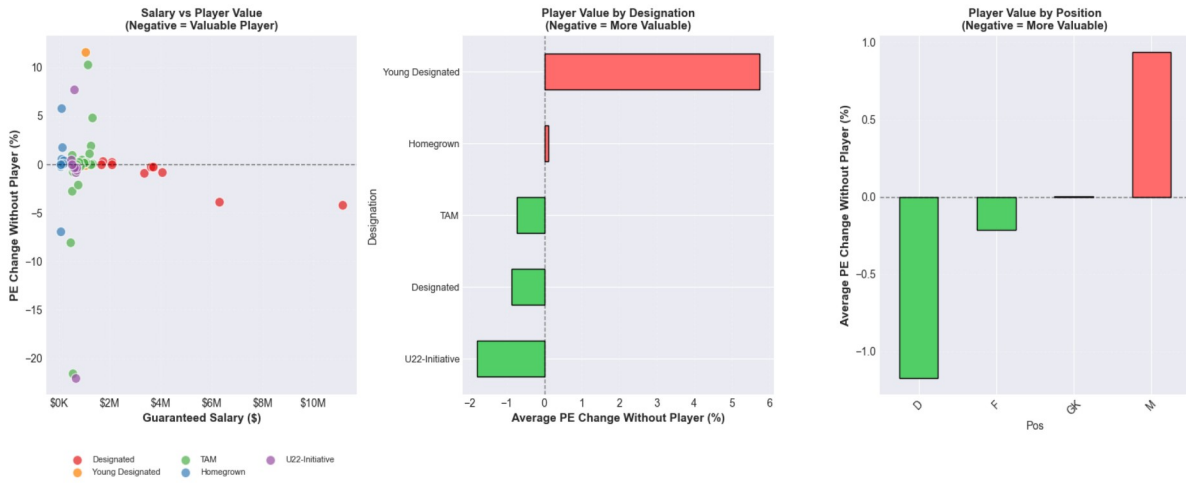


Figure 2 - International Analysis
(Negative % = Team Gets Worse Without Player = Valuable Player)

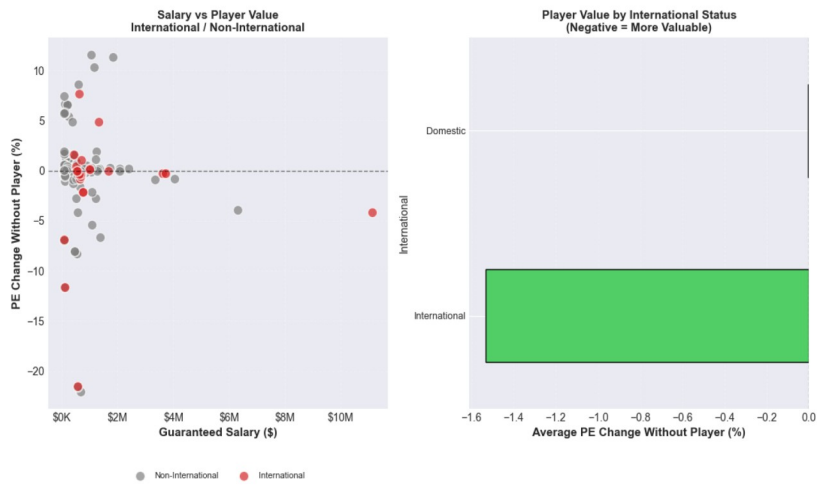


Figure 3 - Senior/Supplemental Analysis
(Negative % = Team Gets Worse Without Player = Valuable Player)

