

St Louis CITY SC: Roster Efficiency & Player Value Report

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

St Louis CITY SC's roster shows a very high percentage of valuable players, but a concerning net-positive average impact indicates the team is generally better without its players – a significant red flag for an expansion side. The single greatest strength is the Goalkeeper TAM slot, which delivers elite negative percent change values (-2.9% to -4.6%), along with strong homegrown defender contributions. The most urgent roster need is the 2024-2025 Defender TAM and U22 group, where multiple players show severely positive (harmful) percent change (+6% to +10%), representing a significant decline in defensive roster construction.

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., -5.3%) 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%): 14.4%** (13 of 90 player-seasons). These players significantly hurt the team if removed.
- **Not Impactful / Replaceable (Percent change > 5.0%): 17.8%** (16 of 90 player-seasons). The team performs better without these players.

Team Summary (from team_summary.csv):

- Total player-seasons analyzed: 90
- Percentage of roster that is valuable (percent change < 0): **62.2%** (very high)
- Average percent change across all players: **+0.32%** (net-positive – the team is on average better without its players, a concerning sign)
- Average impact magnitude: 2.5%

4. DESIGNATED PLAYER ROI AUDIT

Player	Year	Salary	PE % change	Value Verdict
2023 F (Intl.)	2023	\$1,370,284	+1.31%	Marginal
2023 M	2023	\$1,344,250	+0.03%	Neutral
2024 M (Intl.)	2024	\$2,183,113	-0.14%	Core (Marginal)
2024 GK (Intl.)	2024	\$1,657,469	-4.24%	Core
2024 F (Intl.)	2024	\$1,370,284	+2.24%	Marginal
2025 M (Intl.)	2025	\$2,183,113	-0.20%	Core (Marginal)
2025 F (Intl.)	2025	\$1,370,284	+2.58%	Marginal

- **Flagged (Percent change < 0 - Valuable):** 3 of 7 Designated Player seasons show negative percent change. The 2024 GK DP (-4.24%) is the most valuable.
- **Flagged (Percent change > 0 - Harmful): 4 players** – forward DPs are consistently marginal to harmful. St Louis should consider investing DP slots elsewhere.

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

- **TAM Contributors (Negative Percent change):** TAM players show mixed results. Valuable TAM contributors include a 2023 GK TAM (Intl.) (-2.92%), 2023 D TAM (+0.78%, +1.64% - positive), 2023 M TAM (+0.28% - positive), 2024 D TAM (-4.14%, -2.59%), 2024 M TAM (-0.21%, +0.40% - positive), 2025 GK TAM (Intl.) (-4.56%), 2025 M TAM (+0.32%, +0.32% - positive), 2025 D TAM (+9.87% - positive), 2025 M TAM (-0.32%). TAM defenders from 2024 are valuable; 2025 TAM defenders are harmful.
- **U22-Initiative Impact:** U22 slots show mixed results:
 - 2023 F U22: -0.23% (valuable)
 - 2024 M U22: -0.21% (valuable)
 - 2024 D U22 (Intl.): +6.14% (harmful)
 - 2025 M U22 (Intl.): -0.39% (valuable)
 - 2025 M U22: -0.39% (valuable)
 - 2025 D U22 (Intl.): +9.31% (severely harmful)

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

1. **2025 GK TAM (Intl.)** (\$1,707,469, -4.56%)
2. **2024 D TAM** (\$1,203,500, -4.14%)
3. **2024 GK TAM (Intl.)** (\$1,632,469, -2.92%)

6. HOMEGROWN PLAYER EVALUATION

Player	Year	Salary	PE % change
2025 D Homegrown	2025	\$121,000	-5.46%
2025 F Homegrown	2025	\$109,000	-0.49%
2025 M Homegrown	2025	\$104,000	-0.22%
2025 F Homegrown	2025	\$97,902	-0.46%
2024 F Homegrown	2024	\$94,716	-0.28%
2023 M Homegrown	2023	\$89,341	-0.18%
2023 M Homegrown	2023	\$67,360	-0.18%

- **Ready for Roster Promotion (Negative Percent change + Low Salary):**
 - **2025 D Homegrown (\$121,000, -5.46%):** Elite-level negative impact from a homegrown defender.
 - **2025 F Homegrown (\$109,000, -0.49%):** Marginal but negative impact.
 - **2025 M Homegrown (\$104,000, -0.22%):** Marginal but negative impact.

7. INTERNATIONAL SLOT OPTIMIZATION

Player	Year	Pos	Salary	PE % change	Justifies Slot?
2023 GK TAM	2023	GK	\$1,632,469	-2.92%	Yes
2023 F	2023	F	\$1,370,284	+1.31%	No
2023 M TAM	2023	M	\$801,000	+0.28%	No
2023 D	2023	D	\$374,375	+8.87%	No
2023 M	2023	M	\$338,250	+0.10%	No
2023 F	2023	F	\$284,425	-0.27%	Yes
2023 F	2023	F	\$172,438	-0.20%	Yes
2024 M	2024	M	\$2,183,113	-0.14%	Yes
2024 GK	2024	GK	\$1,657,469	-4.24%	Yes
2024 F	2024	F	\$1,370,284	+2.24%	No
2024 M TAM	2024	M	\$1,092,500	+0.12%	No
2024 M TAM	2024	M	\$801,000	-0.21%	Yes
2024 F	2024	F	\$329,925	-0.57%	Yes
2024 D	2024	D	\$324,667	+6.21%	No
2024 D U22	2024	D	\$304,977	+6.14%	No
2024 F	2024	F	\$202,438	-0.47%	Yes

Player	Year	Pos	Salary	PE % change	Justifies Slot?
2025 M	2025	M	\$2,183,113	-0.20%	Yes
2025 GK TAM	2025	GK	\$1,707,469	-4.56%	Yes
2025 F	2025	F	\$1,370,284	+2.58%	No
2025 M TAM	2025	M	\$801,000	-0.32%	Yes
2025 M U22	2025	M	\$737,458	-0.39%	Yes
2025 D	2025	D	\$643,333	+8.11%	No
2025 M	2025	M	\$499,875	-0.39%	Yes
2025 D U22	2025	D	\$462,419	+9.31%	No
2025 D	2025	D	\$374,375	+9.53%	No
2025 F	2025	F	\$343,925	-0.68%	Yes
2025 D	2025	D	\$321,667	+9.55%	No

- **Flagged Slot Misuse (Percent change > 5%):**
 - **2024 D (\$324,667, +6.21%)** – international slot misuse
 - **2024 D U22 (\$304,977, +6.14%)** – U22 slot misuse
 - **2025 D (\$643,333, +8.11%)** – international slot misuse
 - **2025 D U22 (\$462,419, +9.31%)** – U22 slot misuse
 - **2025 D (\$374,375, +9.53%)** – international slot misuse
 - **2025 D (\$321,667, +9.55%)** – international slot misuse

8. POSITIONAL DEPTH AUDIT

Position	Senior Count	Supplemental Count	Critical Upgrade Need?	Strength Area?
F (Forward)	13	3	Yes	No (DP forwards are harmful; TAM forwards are mixed; homegrown forwards are marginal)
M (Midfielder)	12	6	No	Yes (DP midfielders are valuable; TAM midfielders are generally effective; U22 midfielders are valuable)

Position	Senior Count	Supplemental Count	Critical Upgrade Need?	Strength Area?
D (Defender)	15	6	Yes	No (2023 defenders were valuable; 2024-2025 defenders are catastrophically harmful)
GK (Goalkeeper)	5	3	No	Yes (TAM GKs deliver -2.9% to -4.6%; DP GK is also valuable)

- **Critical Need:** Defender position (2024-2025) and Forward position at DP level.
- **Strength:** Goalkeeper position is an elite organizational strength. Midfielder position also shows consistent value.

9. SALARY vs. VALUE MATRIX

Quadrant	Definition	Players (Top 5 or All)
CORE ASSET	% change < 0 & Salary > \$500K	2025 GK TAM (\$1.71M, -4.56%), 2024 GK DP (\$1.66M, -4.24%), 2023 GK TAM (\$1.63M, -2.92%), 2024 D TAM (\$1.20M, -4.14%), 2025 M DP (\$2.18M, -0.20%)
HIDDEN GEM	% change < 0 & Salary ≤ \$500K	2025 D Homegrown (\$121K, -5.46%), 2023 D (\$85K, -5.30%), 2023 D (\$85K, -5.30%), 2023 D (\$85K, -5.30%), 2024 D (\$89K, -2.07%)
OVERPAID	% change ≥ 0 & Salary > \$500K	All in this quadrant: 2025 D TAM (\$1.33M, +9.87%), 2025 D U22 (\$462K, +9.31%), 2025 D (\$643K, +8.11%), 2025 D (\$374K, +9.53%), 2025 D (\$322K, +9.55%), 2024 D (\$325K, +6.21%), 2024 D U22 (\$305K, +6.14%), 2025 F DP (\$1.37M, +2.58%), 2024 F DP (\$1.37M, +2.24%)
REPLACEABLE	% change ≥ 0 & Salary ≤ \$500K	Several senior defenders with marginal positive percent change, some TAM players, and

Quadrant	Definition	Players (Top 5 or All)
		a portion of the supplemental roster.

10. YEAR-OVER-YEAR TRENDS

- Designated Player ROI: Mixed.** Forward DPs are consistently harmful (+1.3% to +2.6%). Midfielder DPs are valuable (-0.1% to -0.2%). GK DP is valuable (-4.2%). St Louis should consider investing DP slots in midfielders and goalkeepers rather than forwards.
- TAM Efficiency: Declining on defense.** 2023 TAM defenders were marginal. 2024 TAM defenders were valuable (-2.6% to -4.1%). 2025 TAM defenders are catastrophically harmful (+9.9%). This represents a significant reversal.
- U22 Efficiency: Declining.** 2023 U22 players were valuable. 2024 U22 players were harmful (+6.1%). 2025 U22 players are mixed (one valuable at -0.4%, one harmful at +9.3%).
- Homegrown Impact: Strong on defense.** The 2025 D Homegrown (-5.46%) is elite. Other homegrown players are marginal. This is an area to build upon.
- Goalkeeper Trend: Elite.** St Louis's investment in TAM and DP goalkeepers has paid exceptional dividends (-2.9% to -4.6%). This is a best-practice model for other expansion sides.

11. SUMMARY FIGURES

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

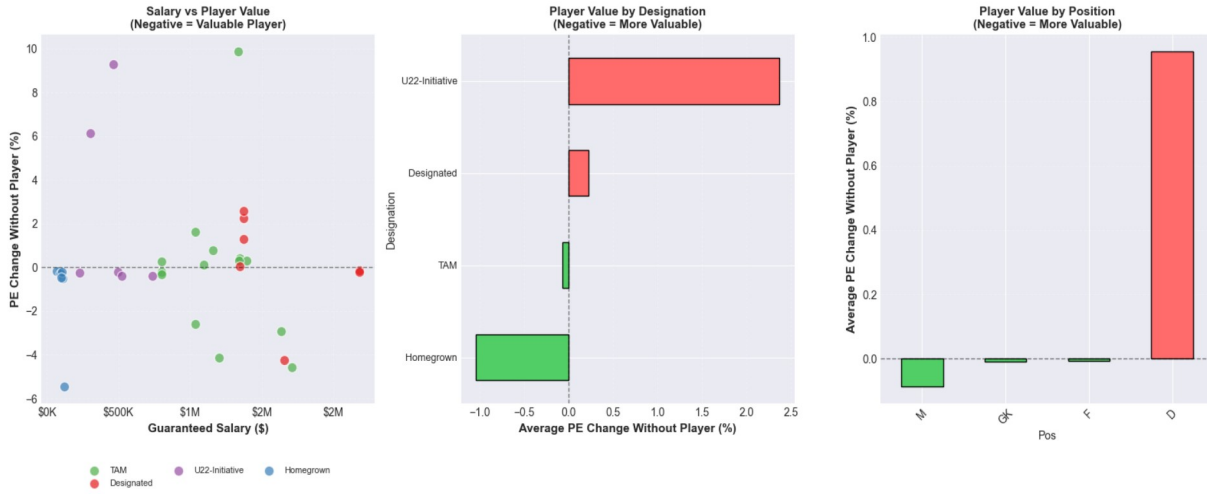


Figure 2 - International Analysis
 (Negative % = Team Gets Worse Without Player = Valuable Player)

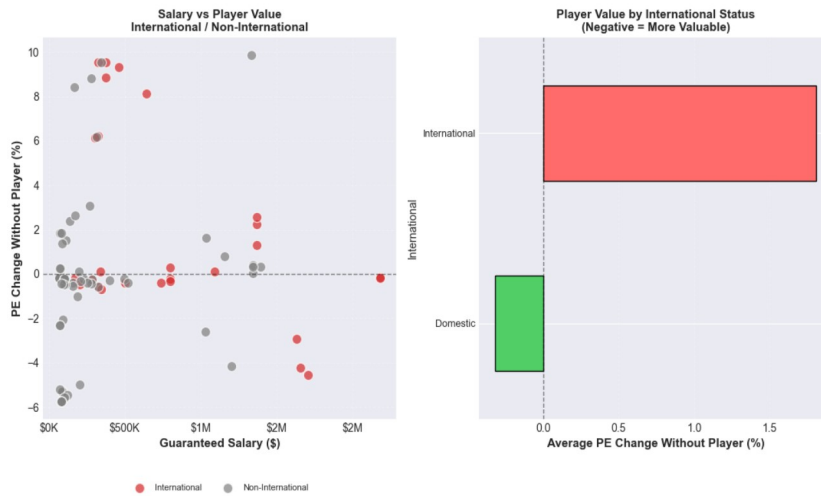


Figure 3 - Senior/Supplemental Analysis
 (Negative % = Team Gets Worse Without Player = Valuable Player)

