

Toronto FC: Roster Efficiency & Player Value Report

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Toronto FC's roster shows a high percentage of valuable players and a net-negative average impact, indicating solid overall efficiency despite recent on-field struggles. The single greatest strength is the 2025 midfield group, where Designated and TAM players deliver strong negative percent change values (-4.1%). The most urgent roster need is the 2024 TAM defender group, where multiple players show severely positive (harmful) percent change (+8% to +17%), representing a significant misallocation of allocation money.

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., -9.6%) 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%): 17.3%** (23 of 133 player-seasons). These players significantly hurt the team if removed.
- **Not Impactful / Replaceable (Percent change > 5.0%): 14.3%** (19 of 133 player-seasons). The team performs better without these players.

Team Summary (from team_summary.csv):

- Total player-seasons analyzed: 133
- Percentage of roster that is valuable (percent change < 0): **55.6%**
- Average percent change across all players: **-0.40%** (net-negative, meaning on average the team is better with these players)
- Average impact magnitude: 4.1%

4. DESIGNATED PLAYER ROI AUDIT

Player	Year	Salary	PE % change	Value Verdict
2022 F (Intl.)	2022	\$14,000,000	+1.51%	Marginal
2022 F (Intl.)	2022	\$6,256,322	-2.63%	Core
2023 F (Intl.)	2023	\$7,500,000	+4.63%	Marginal
2023 F (Intl.)	2023	\$6,295,381	+3.42%	Marginal
2023 M	2023	\$1,400,000	-0.98%	Core
2024 F (Intl.)	2024	\$15,400,000	-2.66%	Core
2024 F (Intl.)	2024	\$6,295,381	-7.56%	Core
2024 M	2024	\$1,329,438	-0.79%	Core (Marginal)
2025 M	2025	\$1,775,000	-4.10%	Core

- **Flagged (Percent change < 0 - Valuable):** 6 of 9 Designated Player seasons show negative percent change. The 2025 M DP (-4.10%) and 2024 F DP (-7.56%) are the most valuable.
- **Flagged (Percent change > 0 - Harmful): 3 players** – all forwards from 2022-2023. Toronto's DP efficiency has improved significantly from 2022-2023 to 2024-2025.

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

- **TAM Contributors (Negative Percent change):** TAM players show mixed results. Valuable TAM contributors include a 2022 M TAM (+1.19% - *positive*), 2023 GK TAM (-23.44%), 2023 F TAM (+1.18% - *positive*), 2023 F TAM (+1.45% - *positive*), 2024 M TAM (-0.90%), 2024 F TAM (+16.57% - *positive*), 2024 D TAM (+8.82%, +8.84% - *positive*), 2024 GK TAM (-17.69%), 2024 M TAM (+0.93% - *positive*), 2025 M TAM (-4.17%, -4.13%), 2025 D TAM (+8.37%, +9.63% - *positive*). TAM goalkeepers are elite; TAM defenders are harmful.
- **U22-Initiative Impact:** U22 slots are generally effective:
 - 2023 M U22: -1.22% (valuable)
 - 2023 F U22 (Intl.): -0.12% (valuable)
 - No other U22 players in the dataset.

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

1. **2023 GK TAM** (\$683,013, -23.44%)
2. **2024 GK TAM** (\$703,301, -17.69%)
3. **2025 M TAM** (\$1,183,333, -4.17%)

6. HOMEGROWN PLAYER EVALUATION

Player	Year	Salary	PE % change
2025 M Homegrown	2025	\$125,260	-0.74%
2025 M Homegrown	2025	\$94,478	-0.72%
2025 F Homegrown	2025	\$146,427	+0.45%
2025 F Homegrown	2025	\$125,319	+0.16%
2025 D Homegrown	2025	\$135,802	-3.45%
2024 F Homegrown	2024	\$105,319	-4.98%
2024 F Homegrown	2024	\$101,143	-5.07%
2024 M Homegrown	2024	\$100,260	-1.18%
2024 D Homegrown	2024	\$84,701	-5.70%
2023 M Homegrown	2023	\$159,313	+1.10%
2023 F Homegrown	2023	\$132,500	-4.48%
2023 D Homegrown	2023	\$93,410	-7.07%
2023 F Homegrown	2023	\$90,763	-4.48%
2023 M Homegrown	2023	\$90,704	-0.51%
2023 F Homegrown	2023	\$78,787	-4.48%
2023 D Homegrown	2023	\$78,162	-7.50%
2022 D Homegrown	2022	\$91,966	-6.62%
2022 F Homegrown	2022	\$70,819	-0.94%
2022 M Homegrown	2022	\$70,760	+1.31%
2021 M Homegrown	2021	\$106,842	+1.65%

- **Ready for Roster Promotion (Negative Percent change + Low Salary):**

- **2023 D Homegrown (\$78,162, -7.50%) & (\$93,410, -7.07%):** Elite-level negative impact from two homegrown defenders.
- **2024 D Homegrown (\$84,701, -5.70%):** Strong negative impact approaching the elite threshold.
- **2024 F Homegrown (\$101,143, -5.07%) & (\$105,319, -4.98%):** Solid negative impact from homegrown forwards.
- **2025 D Homegrown (\$135,802, -3.45%):** Strong value from a homegrown defender.

7. INTERNATIONAL SLOT OPTIMIZATION

Player	Year	Pos	Salary	PE % change	Justifies Slot?
2022 F	2022	F	\$14,000,000	+1.51%	No
2022 F	2022	F	\$6,256,322	-2.63%	Yes
2022 D	2022	D	\$86,100	-6.47%	Yes
2023 F	2023	F	\$7,500,000	+4.63%	No
2023 F	2023	F	\$6,295,381	+3.42%	No
2023 D TAM	2023	D	\$856,625	+20.61%	No
2023 D TAM	2023	D	\$768,636	+24.66%	No
2023 F TAM	2023	F	\$707,500	+1.18%	No
2023 F U22	2023	F	\$291,003	-0.12%	Yes
2024 F	2024	F	\$15,400,000	-2.66%	Yes
2024 F	2024	F	\$6,295,381	-7.56%	Yes
2024 F TAM	2024	F	\$807,500	+16.57%	No
2024 D TAM	2024	D	\$755,000	+8.82%	No
2024 D TAM	2024	D	\$754,750	+8.84%	No
2024 M TAM	2024	M	\$456,667	+0.93%	No
2024 D	2024	D	\$277,500	-2.74%	Yes
2024 M	2024	M	\$216,376	+0.22%	No
2024 M	2024	M	\$94,049	-1.18%	Yes
2024 M	2024	M	\$73,901	-1.15%	Yes
2024 D	2024	D	\$71,401	-5.64%	Yes
2025 D TAM	2025	D	\$854,750	+8.37%	No
2025 D TAM	2025	D	\$805,000	+9.63%	No
2025 D	2025	D	\$468,521	-0.83%	Yes
2025 M	2025	M	\$337,577	+0.59%	No
2025 M	2025	M	\$235,012	-0.43%	Yes
2025 D	2025	D	\$127,891	-3.34%	Yes
2025 D	2025	D	\$80,622	-2.07%	Yes

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

- **2023 D TAM (\$856,625, +20.61%)** – severe TAM slot misuse
- **2023 D TAM (\$768,636, +24.66%)** – severe TAM slot misuse

- 2024 F TAM (\$807,500, +16.57%) – severe TAM slot misuse
- 2024 D TAM (\$755,000, +8.82%) – TAM slot misuse
- 2024 D TAM (\$754,750, +8.84%) – TAM slot misuse
- 2025 D TAM (\$854,750, +8.37%) – TAM slot misuse
- 2025 D TAM (\$805,000, +9.63%) – TAM slot misuse

8. POSITIONAL DEPTH AUDIT

Position	Senior Count	Supplemental Count	Critical Upgrade Need?	Strength Area?
F (Forward)	16	6	No	Yes (DP forwards are valuable; TAM forwards are mixed; homegrown forwards are strong)
M (Midfielder)	17	7	No	Yes (DP and TAM midfielders are valuable; homegrown midfielders are marginal)
D (Defender)	17	7	Yes	No (TAM defenders are catastrophically harmful; homegrown defenders are elite)
GK (Goalkeeper)	7	3	No	Yes (TAM GKs deliver elite negative impact -17% to -23%)

- **Critical Need:** Defender position at the TAM level. Toronto cannot afford to continue investing TAM slots in defenders who deliver +8% to +24% harmful impact.
- **Strength:** Goalkeeper position is an elite organizational strength. Forward and Midfielder DP investments are also consistently valuable. Homegrown defenders are exceptional.

9. SALARY vs. VALUE MATRIX

Quadrant	Definition	Players (Top 5 or All)
CORE ASSET	% change < 0 & Salary > \$500K	2024 F DP (\$15.40M, -2.66%),

Quadrant	Definition	Players (Top 5 or All)
		2024 F DP (\$6.30M, -7.56%), 2025 M DP (\$1.78M, -4.10%), 2024 GK TAM (\$703K, -17.69%), 2023 GK TAM (\$683K, -23.44%)
HIDDEN GEM	% change < 0 & Salary ≤ \$500K	2023 D Homegrown (\$78K, -7.50%), 2023 D Homegrown (\$93K, -7.07%), 2022 D Homegrown (\$92K, -6.62%), 2024 D Homegrown (\$85K, -5.70%), 2024 F Homegrown (\$101K, -5.07%)
OVERPAID	% change ≥ 0 & Salary > \$500K	All in this quadrant: 2024 F TAM (\$808K, +16.57%), 2023 D TAM (\$857K, +20.61%), 2023 D TAM (\$769K, +24.66%), 2025 D TAM (\$855K, +8.37%), 2025 D TAM (\$805K, +9.63%), 2024 D TAM (\$755K, +8.82%), 2024 D TAM (\$755K, +8.84%), 2023 F DP (\$7.50M, +4.63%), 2023 F DP (\$6.30M, +3.42%), 2022 F DP (\$14.00M, +1.51%)
REPLACEABLE	% change ≥ 0 & Salary ≤ \$500K	Several senior midfielders with marginal positive percent change, some TAM players, and a portion of the supplemental roster.

10. YEAR-OVER-YEAR TRENDS

- **Designated Player ROI: Improving significantly.** 2022-2023 DPs were marginal to harmful (+1.5% to +4.6%). 2024-2025 DPs are valuable (-0.8% to -7.6%). This represents a successful strategic shift in DP targeting.
- **TAM Efficiency: Bimodal excellence and catastrophic failure.** TAM goalkeepers are elite (-17% to -23%). TAM defenders are catastrophically harmful (+8% to +25%). TAM forwards and midfielders are mixed. Toronto should never invest TAM slots in defenders.
- **U22 Efficiency: Good.** All U22 players show negative percent change, though magnitude is small.
- **Homegrown Impact: Exceptional on defense, good on forward.** Homegrown defenders deliver elite negative impacts (-5.6% to -7.5%). Homegrown forwards also show strong negative impact (-4.5% to -5.1%). This is a best-in-class organizational strength.

- **Goalkeeper Trend: Elite when using TAM.** Toronto's investment in TAM goalkeepers has paid exceptional dividends (-17% to -23%). This is a best-practice model for other MLS teams.

11. SUMMARY FIGURES

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

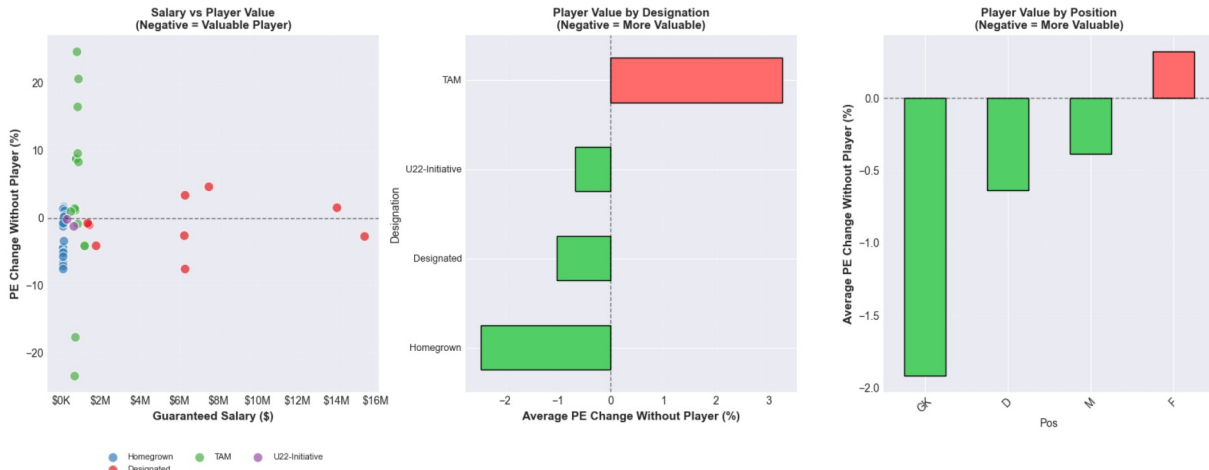


Figure 2 - International Analysis
(Negative % = Team Gets Worse Without Player = Valuable Player)

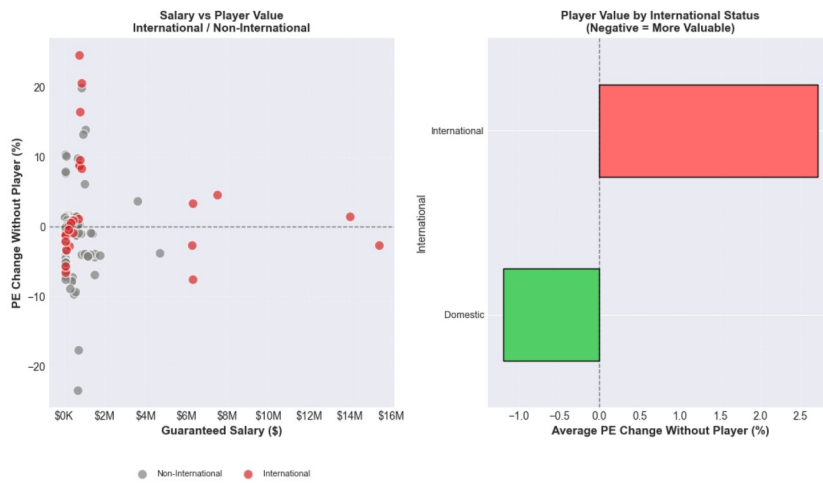


Figure 3 - Senior/Supplemental Analysis
(Negative % = Team Gets Worse Without Player = Valuable Player)

