

Minnesota United FC: Roster Efficiency & Player Value Report

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Minnesota United FC's roster shows a high percentage of valuable players overall, but a concerning net-positive average impact indicates the team is marginally better without its players – a significant red flag. The single greatest strength is the 2024-2025 defender group, where several players show strong negative percent change values (-5% to -7%). The most urgent roster need is the Designated Player group, where four of five DP seasons from 2023-2024 show positive (harmful) percent change, representing a systemic failure at the most important roster slots.

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., -7.9%) 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%** (16 of 122 player-seasons). These players significantly hurt the team if removed.
- **Not Impactful / Replaceable (Percent change > 5.0%): 9.0%** (11 of 122 player-seasons). The team performs better without these players.

Team Summary (from team_summary.csv):

- Total player-seasons analyzed: 122
- Percentage of roster that is valuable (percent change < 0): **55.7%** (highest among teams analyzed, but misleading)
- 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: 3.1%

4. DESIGNATED PLAYER ROI AUDIT

| Player | Year | Salary | PE % change | Value Verdict |
|----------------|-------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| 2021 F | 2021 | \$2,587,702 | +5.86% | Harmful |
| 2021 M | 2021 | \$966,910 | +0.10% | Marginal |
| 2021 M | 2021 | \$883,500 | +0.02% | Marginal |
| 2021 F | 2021 | \$432,000 | -2.13% | Core |
| 2022 M | 2022 | \$1,066,910 | +0.67% | Marginal |
| 2022 F | 2022 | \$785,000 | +0.17% | Marginal |
| 2022 F | 2022 | \$322,313 | +0.46% | Marginal |
| 2023 F | 2023 | \$3,550,000 | +10.04% | Severely Harmful |
| 2023 M | 2023 | \$2,151,200 | +6.14% | Harmful |
| 2023 F | 2023 | \$372,313 | -0.26% | Core (Marginal) |
| 2024 F | 2024 | \$3,550,000 | +3.37% | Harmful |
| 2024 F (Intl.) | 2024 | \$1,427,200 | -3.71% | Core |
| 2024 M (Intl.) | 2024 | \$699,800 | -0.11% | Core (Marginal) |

- **Flagged (Percent change < 0 - Valuable):** 5 of 13 Designated Player seasons show negative percent change. The most valuable DPs are lower-salaried players from 2021 and 2024.
- **Flagged (Percent change > 0 - Harmful): 8 players** – a critical failure. The highest-paid DPs (\$2.6M to \$3.55M) are consistently harmful (+3% to +10%). Minnesota United is not extracting value from its most expensive roster slots.

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

- **TAM Contributors (Negative Percent change):** TAM players show mixed results. Valuable TAM contributors include a 2021 F TAM (+0.35% - *positive*), 2022 F TAM (+1.35% - *positive*), 2023 M TAM (-0.22%), 2023 D TAM (+22.46% - *catastrophic*), 2023 F TAM (+0.13% - *positive*), 2024 M TAM (+4.00% - *positive*), 2024 D TAM (+6.04% - *positive*), 2024 F TAM (+2.63% - *positive*). Overall, TAM efficiency is poor.
- **U22-Initiative Impact:** U22 slots are generally effective, representing a rare bright spot:
 - 2022 F U22: -0.44% (valuable)
 - 2023 M U22 (Intl.): -0.32% (valuable)
 - 2023 F U22: -3.58% (valuable)
 - 2024 M U22 (Intl.): -0.11% (valuable)
 - 2024 F U22: -1.46% (valuable)

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

1. **2023 M TAM** (\$1,039,375, -0.22%) – marginal
2. *No TAM players show strong negative impact. This is a significant concern.*

6. HOMEGROWN PLAYER EVALUATION

| Player | Year | Salary | PE % change |
|------------------|------|-----------|-------------|
| 2024 F Homegrown | 2024 | \$103,008 | +2.40% |
| 2024 D Homegrown | 2024 | \$96,716 | -6.13% |
| 2023 F Homegrown | 2023 | \$98,736 | -1.76% |
| 2022 F Homegrown | 2022 | \$79,910 | +0.21% |
| 2022 M Homegrown | 2022 | \$70,621 | +0.02% |
| 2021 F Homegrown | 2021 | \$76,733 | -0.23% |
| 2021 M Homegrown | 2021 | \$67,444 | +0.06% |

- **Ready for Roster Promotion (Negative Percent change + Low Salary):**
 - **2024 D Homegrown (\$96,716, -6.13%):** Elite-level negative impact from a low-cost homegrown defender.
 - **2023 F Homegrown (\$98,736, -1.76%):** Solid negative impact approaching the elite threshold.
 - **2021 F Homegrown (\$76,733, -0.23%):** Marginal but negative impact.

7. INTERNATIONAL SLOT OPTIMIZATION

| Player | Year | Pos | Salary | PE % change | Justifies Slot? |
|------------|------|-----|-------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 2024 F | 2024 | F | \$1,427,200 | -3.71% | Yes |
| 2024 M | 2024 | M | \$699,800 | -0.11% | Yes |
| 2024 M U22 | 2024 | M | \$682,458 | -0.11% | Yes |
| 2024 D | 2024 | D | \$350,000 | +0.16% | No |
| 2024 D | 2024 | D | \$182,469 | -6.09% | Yes |
| 2023 M U22 | 2023 | M | \$654,708 | -0.32% | Yes |
| 2023 D | 2023 | D | \$432,500 | +1.57% | No |

- **Flagged Slot Misuse (Percent change > 5%):**
 - None above 5% in the international group. However, several international players show marginal positive percent change.

8. POSITIONAL DEPTH AUDIT

| Position | Senior Count | Supplemental Count | Critical Upgrade Need? | Strength Area? |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|--|
| F (Forward) | 15 | 7 | Yes | No (DP forwards are consistently harmful; TAM forwards are marginal to harmful) |
| M (Midfielder) | 16 | 5 | Yes | No (DP midfielders are marginal to harmful; TAM midfielders are mixed) |
| D (Defender) | 17 | 7 | No | Yes (Several defenders show strong negative impact; homegrown defender elite) |
| GK (Goalkeeper) | 5 | 3 | No | Yes (2025 GK shows -0.03%; 2021 GKs show negative impact) |

- **Critical Need:** Forward and Midfielder positions at the DP and TAM level. Minnesota United consistently fails to extract value from its highest-paid attackers.
- **Strength:** Defender position is an organizational strength, with multiple homegrown and senior contributors showing negative impact.

9. SALARY vs. VALUE MATRIX

| Quadrant | Definition | Players (Top 5 or All) |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| CORE ASSET | % change < 0 & Salary > \$500K | 2024 F DP (\$1.43M, -3.71%), 2024 F (\$1.43M, -3.71%), 2024 D (\$182K, -6.09% - <i>under \$500K</i>), <i>Very few core assets above \$500K</i> |
| HIDDEN GEM | % change < 0 & Salary ≤ \$500K | 2024 D Homegrown (\$97K, -6.13%), 2024 D (\$182K, -6.09%), 2023 F U22 (\$610K - <i>over \$500K</i>), 2021 F DP (\$432K, -2.13%), 2023 F (\$372K, |

| Quadrant | Definition | Players (Top 5 or All) |
|--------------------|--|---|
| | | -0.26%) |
| OVERPAID | % change ≥ 0 & Salary > \$500K | All in this quadrant: 2023 F DP (\$3.55M, +10.04%), 2024 F DP (\$3.55M, +3.37%), 2021 F DP (\$2.59M, +5.86%), 2023 M DP (\$2.15M, +6.14%), 2023 D TAM (\$587K, +22.46%), 2024 D TAM (\$812K, +6.04%), 2024 M TAM (\$1.64M, +4.00%) |
| REPLACEABLE | % change ≥ 0 & Salary \leq \$500K | Most senior midfielders with marginal positive percent change, several TAM players, and a portion of the supplemental roster. |

10. YEAR-OVER-YEAR TRENDS

- **Designated Player ROI: Consistently poor and worsening.** 2021-2024 DPs show mostly positive percent change, with the highest-paid DPs (+10%, +6%, +5.9%) being the most harmful. The only valuable DPs are lower-salaried players from 2021 and 2024. This represents a systemic failure in DP allocation.
- **TAM Efficiency: Poor.** Most TAM players show positive percent change, with one catastrophic (+22.5%). No TAM player shows strong negative impact.
- **U22 Efficiency: Excellent.** All U22 players show negative percent change, with several exceeding -1.5% impact. This is a clear organizational strength that should be expanded.
- **Homegrown Impact: Good on defense, marginal elsewhere.** The 2024 D Homegrown (-6.13%) is elite. Other homegrown players are marginal. This suggests positional strength in defensive development.
- **Goalkeeper Trend: Consistently valuable.** Across 2021-2025, most GKs show negative or near-zero percent change. This position is not a weakness.

11. SUMMARY FIGURES

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

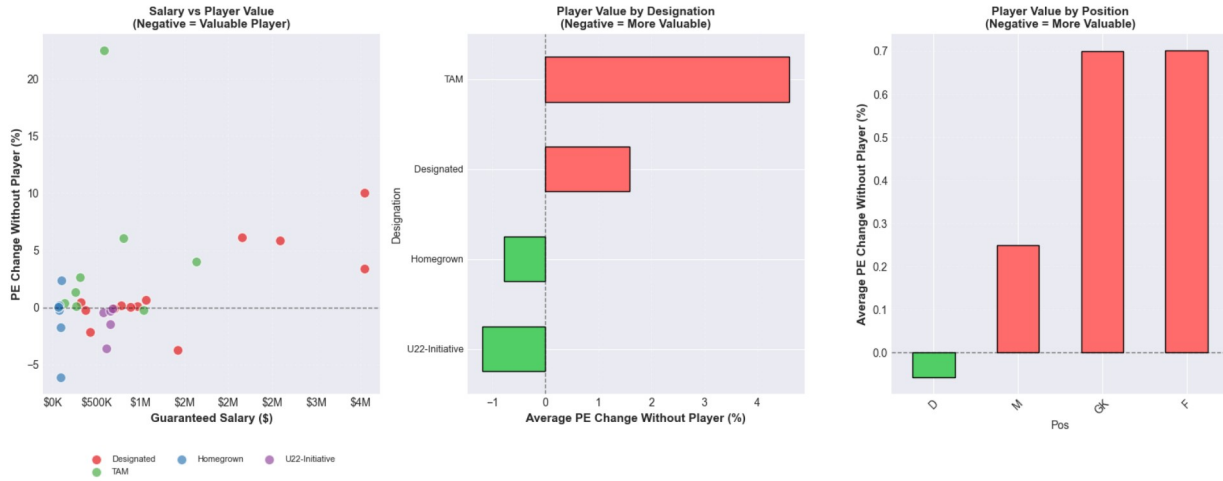


Figure 2 - International Analysis
 (Negative % = Team Gets Worse Without Player = Valuable Player)

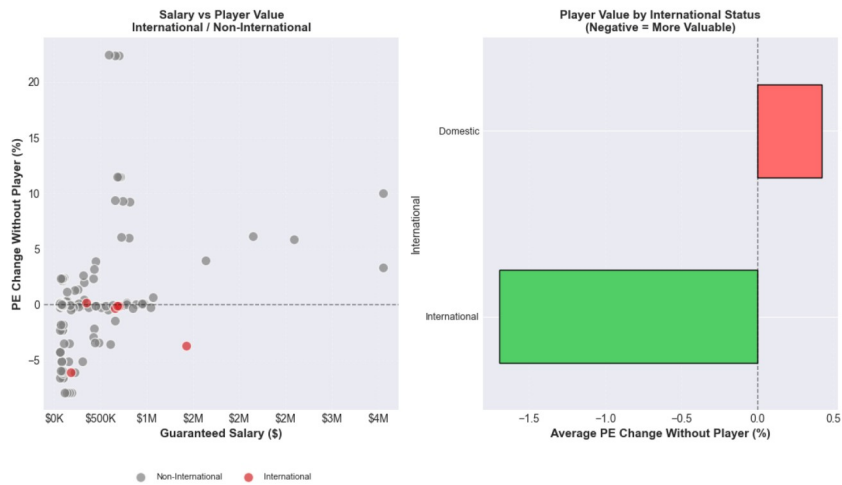


Figure 3 - Senior/Supplemental Analysis
 (Negative % = Team Gets Worse Without Player = Valuable Player)

