

Austin FC: Roster Efficiency & Player Value Report

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Austin FC's roster shows a clear efficiency pattern: Designated Players and TAM contributors drive most of the team's value, while a large portion of the supplemental roster is replaceable. The single greatest strength is the 2025 forward group, where three Designated Players show elite negative percent change values (-25.5%, -24.0%, -23.8%), meaning the team would decline substantially without them. The most urgent roster need is improving midfield impact, as most midfielders show neutral or positive percent change (team improves without them), indicating a lack of value from the center of the pitch.

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., -9.3%) 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%): 22.1%** (31 of 140 player-seasons). These players significantly hurt the team if removed.
- **Not Impactful / Replaceable (Percent change > 5.0%): 22.9%** (32 of 140 player-seasons). The team performs better without these players, suggesting they are underperformers relative to their role.

Team Summary (from team_summary.csv):

- Total player-seasons analyzed: 140
- Percentage of roster that is valuable (percent change < 0): 35.7%
- Average percent change across all players: -0.42% (slightly net-negative, meaning on average the team is better with these players)

- Average impact magnitude: 6.0%

4. DESIGNATED PLAYER ROI AUDIT

Player	Year	Salary	PE % change	Value Verdict
2025 F	2025	\$3,551,778	-25.52%	Elite Core
2025 F (Intl.)	2025	\$2,225,000	-24.05%	Elite Core
2025 F (Intl.)	2025	\$1,500,000	-23.75%	Elite Core
2024 F	2024	\$6,722,500	-19.77%	Elite Core
2024 M	2024	\$1,665,000	-11.38%	Core
2022 F	2022	\$2,317,000	-11.53%	Core
2022 F	2022	\$2,294,152	-11.51%	Core
2021 F	2021	\$2,688,420	-9.27%	Core
2023 M	2023	\$1,640,000	-8.65%	Core
2021 F	2021	\$1,736,000	-7.93%	Core
2023 F	2023	\$6,022,500	-6.08%	Core
2022 M	2022	\$1,640,000	-6.14%	Core
2024 F (Intl.)	2024	\$1,000,000	-12.23%	Core
2023 F	2023	\$2,047,996	-1.10%	Marginal Core
2021 M	2021	\$642,447	+0.11%	Neutral

- **Flagged (Percent change < 0 - Valuable):** 14 of 15 Designated Player seasons show negative percent change, an excellent track record.
- **Flagged (Percent change > 0 - Harmful): 1 player** – the 2021 Designated Midfielder (\$642,447, +0.11%). The team marginally improves without this player.

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

- **TAM Contributors (Negative Percent change):** TAM players show mixed results. Several are highly valuable (2024 F TAM at -12.23%, 2025 D TAM at -31.36%, 2023 D TAM at -18.00%). However, some TAM players show positive percent change (2023 F TAM at +10.28%, 2023 D TAM at +2.99%, 2024 M TAM at +1.46%).
- **U22-Initiative Impact:** U22 slots are **not** being used effectively. All U22 players in the dataset show positive percent change (team improves without them):
 - 2021 F U22: +11.98%
 - 2022 F U22: +11.48%
 - 2023 F U22: +11.99%

- 2024 D U22: +6.22%
- 2025 D U22 (Intl.): +3.85%
- 2025 M U22 (Intl.): +0.02%

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

1. **2025 D TAM** (\$853,750, -31.36%)
2. **2023 D TAM** (\$908,859, -18.00%)
3. **2024 F TAM** (\$1,000,000, -12.23%)

6. HOMEGROWN PLAYER EVALUATION

Player	Year	Salary	PE % change
2025 M Homegrown	2025	\$221,600	-0.55%
2025 F Homegrown	2025	\$115,000	+6.74%
2024 M Homegrown	2024	\$123,053	+0.88%
2024 F Homegrown	2024	\$82,401	-4.30%
2023 M Homegrown	2023	\$127,825	+0.30%
2023 M Homegrown	2023	\$113,053	+0.30%
2022 M Homegrown	2022	\$78,553	+0.15%

- **Ready for Roster Promotion (Negative Percent change + Low Salary):**
 - **2025 M Homegrown (\$221,600, -0.55%):** Low-cost midfielder who makes the team marginally worse when removed.
 - **2024 F Homegrown (\$82,401, -4.30%):** Strong value from a supplemental forward nearing the impactful threshold (-5%).

7. INTERNATIONAL SLOT OPTIMIZATION

Player	Year	Pos	Salary	PE % change	Justifies Slot?
2025 F	2025	F	\$2,225,000	-24.05%	Yes
2025 F	2025	F	\$1,500,000	-23.75%	Yes
2025 M	2025	M	\$550,000	+0.07%	No
2025 F	2025	F	\$505,401	+8.78%	No
2025 D	2025	D	\$505,000	-1.28%	Yes
2025 D U22	2025	D	\$347,500	+3.85%	No
2025 M U22	2025	M	\$297,986	+0.02%	No
2025 D	2025	D	\$275,000	-1.95%	Yes

Player	Year	Pos	Salary	PE % change	Justifies Slot?
2024 F	2024	F	\$1,000,000	-12.23%	Yes
2024 D TAM	2024	D	\$654,500	+0.07%	No
2024 D	2024	D	\$500,000	+6.38%	No
2024 D	2024	D	\$300,000	+2.13%	No
2024 D	2024	D	\$200,000	-6.55%	Yes
2023 D TAM	2023	D	\$654,500	+2.99%	No

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

- **2025 F (\$505,401, +8.78%):** Team improves nearly 9% without this international forward.
- **2024 D (\$500,000, +6.38%):** Team improves over 6% without this international defender.

8. POSITIONAL DEPTH AUDIT

Position	Senior Count	Supplemental Count	Critical Upgrade Need?	Strength Area?
F (Forward)	24	9	No	Yes (Elite negative impact from DPs; several TAM forwards also strong)
M (Midfielder)	24	9	Yes	No (Majority show 0% to +0.5% change; only one midfielder shows meaningful negative impact)
D (Defender)	26	8	No	Yes (Several defenders show strong negative impact, including a -31.36% TAM defender)
GK (Goalkeeper)	8	4	No	Mixed (Some negative, some positive; no elite impact)

- **Critical Need:** Midfield. The vast majority of midfielders show percent change near 0% or slightly positive. Only the 2025 M Homegrown (-0.55%) and 2022 M Designated (-6.14%) show meaningful negative impact.
- **Strength:** Forward and Defender groups contain multiple elite core assets.

9. SALARY vs. VALUE MATRIX

Quadrant	Definition	Players (Top 5 or All)
CORE ASSET	% change < 0 & Salary > \$500K	2025 F (\$3.55M, -25.5%), 2025 F (\$2.23M, -24.0%), 2025 F (\$1.50M, -23.8%), 2024 F (\$6.72M, -19.8%), 2024 M (\$1.67M, -11.4%)
HIDDEN GEM	% change < 0 & Salary ≤ \$500K	2024 D (\$200K, -6.55%), 2024 GK (\$224K, -5.09%), 2024 F (\$82K, -4.30%), 2024 F (\$71K, -4.33%), 2025 M Homegrown (\$222K, -0.55%)
OVERPAID	% change ≥ 0 & Salary > \$500K	All in this quadrant: 2023 F TAM (\$800K, +10.28%), 2024 D (\$500K, +6.38%), 2024 GK (\$482K, +5.94%), 2023 D TAM (\$655K, +2.99%), 2025 F (\$505K, +8.78%), 2024 M TAM (\$495K, +1.46%)
REPLACEABLE	% change ≥ 0 & Salary ≤ \$500K	Most senior midfielders across 2021-2025, several U22 players, and a majority of supplemental forwards/defenders with positive percent change.

10. YEAR-OVER-YEAR TRENDS

- **Designated Player ROI:** Strong and improving. Early DPs (2021-2022) showed negative impacts between -6% and -11%. Recent DPs (2024-2025) show elite negative impacts between -19% and -25%, indicating excellent DP scouting and investment.
- **TAM Efficiency:** Inconsistent. 2023 TAM players showed mixed results (one elite at -18%, one poor at +10%). 2024-2025 TAM players show a wider range, from elite (-31%, -12%) to neutral/positive (+0.07%, +4.07%).
- **U22 Efficiency: Persistent underperformance.** Across 2021-2025, every U22 player shows positive percent change. Austin FC is not extracting value from this roster mechanism.

- **Midfield Trend:** Systemic underperformance. Midfielders across all years consistently show percent change near 0% or slightly positive, indicating a failure to derive value from the center of the pitch despite various salary levels.
- **Homegrown Impact:** Improving but still marginal. Early Homegrown players (2022-2023) showed positive percent change. 2024-2025 Homegrown players are closer to neutral or slightly negative, a step in the right direction.

11. SUMMARY FIGURES

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

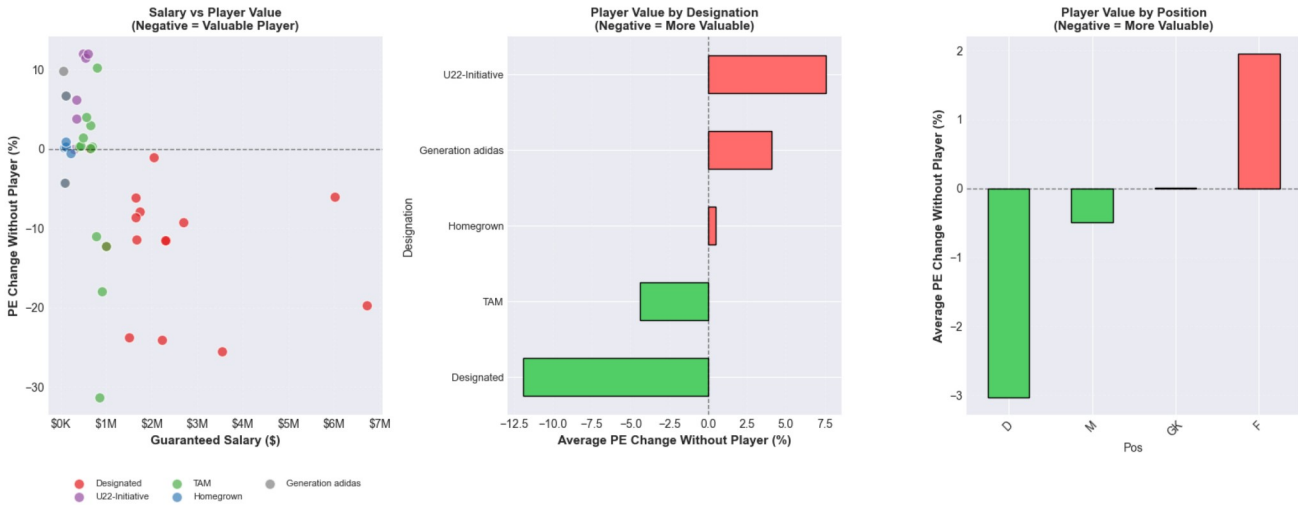


Figure 2 - International Analysis
(Negative % = Team Gets Worse Without Player = Valuable Player)

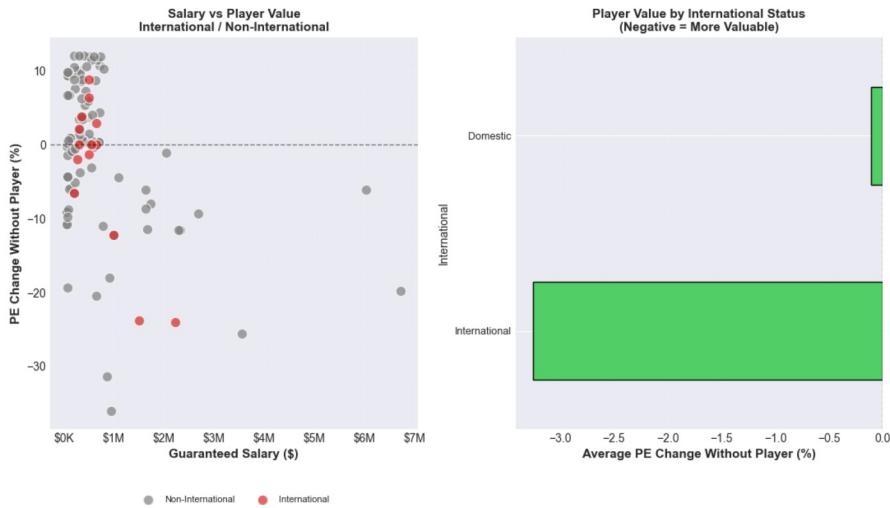


Figure 3 - Senior/Supplemental Analysis
(Negative % = Team Gets Worse Without Player = Valuable Player)

