



FIFA 22

FIFA 22 vs. Real Life Transfer Market Valuations



Abstract

Soccer, or football in almost any other country, truly is the world's game. While not everyone can work or play at the highest level, some games such as EA Sports' FIFA 22 allow the everyday individual to experience what the business of world soccer can look like from any club they choose. Comparing the transfer market in FIFA 22's "Career Mode"- where players can take over a club of their choosing- with real life transfer market data from actively updated sources can allow us to see where the game over or undervalues the prices of certain players, giving way to any potential bias in FIFA 22's transfer market synthesis.

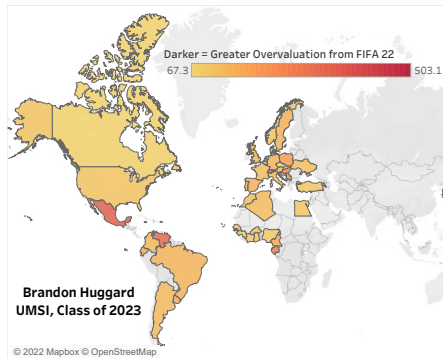
Method

I used two separate databases in sourcing the information used in the charts below. First, David Cereijo created a database that updates with the opening and closing of every transfer window using data from German site, Transfermarkt (<https://data.world/dcereijo/player-scores/workspace/file?filename=players>). Beyond that I used sofifa.com to scrape the career mode database for FIFA 22. Using the Pandas Library in Python I normalized any differences in player names and merged the data into one frame where I could directly compare prices using player name as an index. The graphs below are made using the top 340 players based on real life transfer value and their corresponding FIFA 22 price. All visualizations were done using the final .csv output in Tableau.

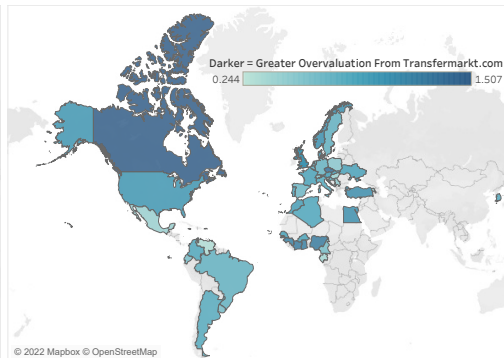
Findings

Grouping players based on home country and general position we can see that FIFA 22 generally prices players at ~5 Million USD higher than Transfermarkt. Given the size of the sample used there were still some significant outliers to account for including players like Kylian Mbappe and Erling Haaland who's value is pushing \$200,000,000 based on increasingly significant weekly performances and an upcoming summer transfer window (accounted for by using median). When grouped by home nation we can see FIFA 22 typically overvalues players from Central and South America compared to Transfermarkt at a higher percentage than other places, while European and African Players more closely resemble their real transfer valuation. By position goalkeepers are the most overvalued by FIFA 22 at an average of about \$11,000,000 while other positions all hold at about \$4-5,000,000.

Percent Difference Between FIFA 22 Price and Real Life Transfer Market Valuation



Percent Difference Between Real Life Transfer Market Valuation and FIFA 22 Price



Difference in Median Pricing based on Position

