

New major transfer market player

While the Chinese Super League has captured the occasional football star prior to this year, such as Nicolas Anelka and Didier Drogba, this new season has seen its clubs splashing out big money to compete with the traditional European leagues for top players.

Chinese Super League facts

Formed: 2004

Number of teams this season: 16

Transfer window: Jan 1 to Feb 28

Former champions:

Shenzhen Jianlibao (2004), Dalian Shide (2005), Shandong Luneng (2006, 2008, 2010), Changchun Yatai (2007), Beijing Guoan (2009), Guangzhou Evergrande (2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015)

2016

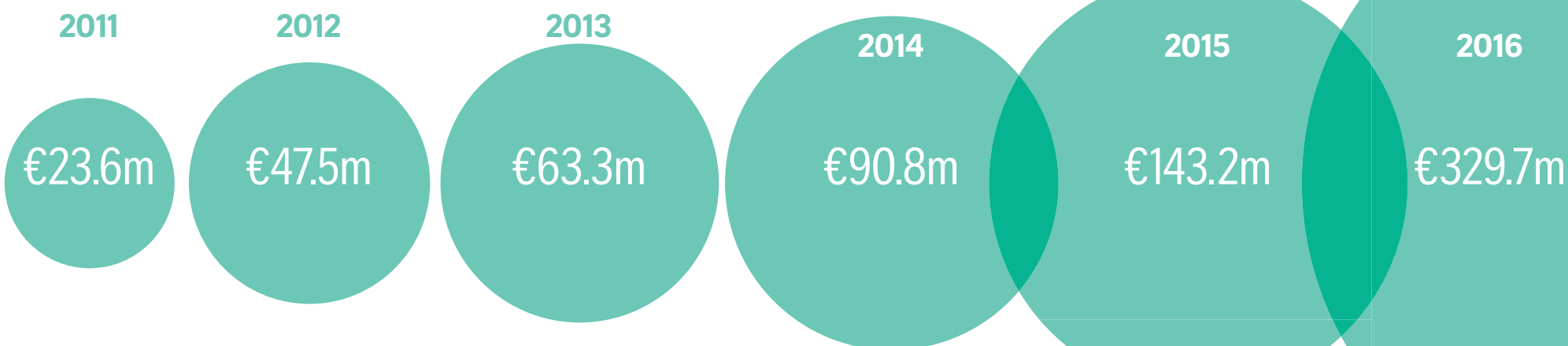
Most expensive signing:

€50m

Alex Teixeira (Brazil)

Midfielder, from Shakhtar Donetsk to Jiangsu Suning, Feb 5

Chinese Super League transfer total expenditure this decade



Most expensive signing:

€4m

Cleo (Brazil)

Striker, from Partizan Belgrade to Guangzhou Evergrande



Most expensive signing:

€8.2m

Dario Conca (Argentina)

Midfielder, from Fluminense to Guangzhou Evergrande



Most expensive signing:

€8.5m

Lucas Barrios (Paraguay)

Striker, from Borussia Dortmund to Guangzhou Evergrande



Most expensive signing:

€7.5m

Alessandro Diamanti (Italy)

Striker, from Bologna to Guangzhou Evergrande



Walter Montillo (Argentina)

Midfielder, from Santos to Shandong Luneng



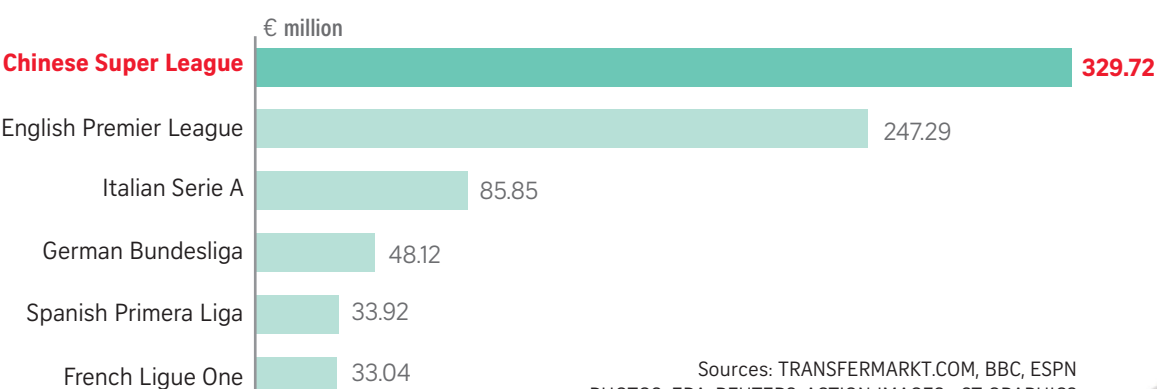
Most expensive signing:

€15m

Ricardo Goulart (Brazil)

Forward, from Cruzeiro to Guangzhou Evergrande

League expenditure in January transfer window



Other record signings this season

€28m

Ramires (Brazil)

Midfielder, from Chelsea to Jiangsu Suning



€42m

Jackson Martinez (Colombia)

Striker, from Atletico Madrid to Guangzhou Evergrande



Sources: TRANSFERMARKT.COM, BBC, ESPN
PHOTOS: EPA, REUTERS, ACTION IMAGES ST GRAPHICS