Living Wage Benchmark Series



WageIndicator Typical Family Methodology

How does the methodology meet the IDH criteria

Check our website for more information





1. COLLECTING DATA

Data on cost of living is collected through country/ region -based surveys (online and face-to-face).



2. COST OF LIVING OF A TYPICAL FAMILY

National family sizes are derived from national birth-rate data.



3. ITEMS OF COST OF LIVING

Family costs include cost of a suitable diet, typical rent, children's education, healthcare, transport, clothes, water, phone and other expenses.



4. WORKING ADULTS

The typical wage earners in a family is derived from national employment data.



5. SUFFICIENT NET WAGE

The difference between net and gross pay is calculated using the latest national tax summaries available publicly.



6. DIFFERENCES IN CONTEXT

All data is disaggregated per country-defined regions as well as sorted into 4 regions of similar rural or urban density.



7. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Funding is derived from grants and selling data.



8. TRANSPARENCY

The process and criteria for collecting data is fully available online at the WageIndicator Foundation website.



9. INFLATION ESTIMATION

New benchmarks based on new data are published quarterly so there is no need for benchmarks to be updated regularly for inflation.

What is the WageIndicator Foundation?

Established in 2000, the WageIndicator Foundation aims for transparency. This means publishing free info about wages, Minimum Wages and Labour law throughout the world in national languages on national (popular) WageIndicator websites - now with operations in 140 countries. Data collections are overseen by a group of universities. Data to estimate Living Wage Benchmarks is collected continuously through online and face-to-face surveys. Benchmarks include a low and a high range; the former can be considered as a stepping stone, and ultimately wages should be above the latter. When a company pays a Living Wage, WageIndicator informs the public at large in that country. Beyond the Typical Family Methodology which meets IDH's nine criteria for recognition, WageIndicator also uses other methodologies to produce benchmarks, such as the single-earner family methodology. Benchmarks are available for purchase by contacting the WageIndicator Foundation.

Read more



METHODOLOGY APPROACH



Survey

Costs of over 200 items are gathered through local cost of living surveys where users can report costs of up to 100 items.



Data Collectors

Face to face data collection including interviews and visits to shops and markets.



Model-based

For regions where data is not yet available, data is modelled based on similar regions.



SpecificityRegional and National



Publishing Data

Quarterly