

Living Wage Benchmark Series

Monthly Living Wage Methodology

How does the methodology meet the criteria?

[Check our website for more information](#)

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1. COLLECTING DATA
All calculations are based on annual data from quality third parties such as the Economic Policy Institute, USDA Economic Research Service, U.S. Census Bureau, Feeding America Map the Meal Gap reports, Kaiser Family Foundation.
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2. COST OF LIVING OF A TYPICAL FAMILY
The methodology relies on a family of two adults and two kids in keeping with the family concept.
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3. ITEMS OF COST OF LIVING
The methodology consists of: housing, food, transportation, child care, health care (insurance and out of pocket), miscellaneous/other necessities, resiliency/margin for unexpected events, and taxes.
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4. WORKING ADULTS
The methodology assumes one full-time worker plus the likelihood of a second worker in the family to establish the final number of working adults.
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5. SUFFICIENT NET WAGE
Statutory Deductions from pay are calculated using the National Bureau of Economic Research's TAXSIM to calculate tax liabilities.
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6. DIFFERENCES IN CONTEXT
Benchmarks are available at county level across the US, grouped by commuting zone.
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7. CONFLICT OF INTEREST
No conflicts identified.
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8. TRANSPARENCY
Clear methodological infographic published online.
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9. INFLATION ESTIMATION
Benchmarks calculated annually. When new data are not available, benchmarks are updated for inflation.

What is the Living Wage for US?

Living Wage For US is an initiative that started in 2018 under the umbrella of Oxfam America. It now runs independently as a voluntary sustainability certification that certifies U.S. employers that pay their workers and contractors a living wage. As reference for their certification, they created regional benchmarks across the U.S. grouped by county commuting zones.

Their methodology for setting living wage is based on high-level detailed data collection and investigation on the US reality and socio-economic diversity. All benchmarks are publicly available on their website.

[Visit their website to learn more](#)



Find out if there is a benchmark in your region

[Check our website](#)

METHODOLOGY APPROACH



Survey



Data Collectors

Data is collected from a variety of quality public sources.



Model-based



Specificity

Regional



Publishing Data

Annual