

Worldwide comparison of occupation 2011

The Monsterboard/Loonwijzer Wage Indicator database enables a wage comparison across different occupational groups and across various countries in the European Union, Former Soviet Union, and Central and South America. Furthermore, the analysis may also consider Asian and African countries. Because of different price levels in the above countries, we employ two different indicators for the sake of comparability:

1. Gross and net wage in **international US dollars** express a wage in US dollars that have the same purchasing power as the US dollars has in the USA
2. The **Big Mac wage** expresses a wage converted into the amount of Big Macs that an employee can afford to buy.

It should be stressed that although the latter is easier for comprehension and therefore more attractive, the former indicator is more encompassing and reaching beyond a single commodity comparison.

Based on the global analysis of wages in 4 occupational groups (1. managers, 2. professionals, 3. technicians and associate professionals, 4. clerical support workers) across 23 countries, it can be concluded that Dutch employees receive one of the highest wages among employees from all these countries.

Best paid managers can be found in the Netherlands, where the median gross hourly wage reaches the level of 26.1 international US dollars (\$). In general, median gross hourly wages of managers are higher than 20\$ in the western countries. The lowest gross hourly wages (6.3\$) are found in Indonesia. The most Big Macs per hour can be enjoyed by managers as well as by all other studied occupational groups in the United Kingdom. With 22\$ Dutch professionals occupy the third place in terms of median gross hourly wages. Better wages are offered in Germany (24.9\$) and United Kingdom (23.6\$) where we also found a higher amount of Big Macs per hour. Professionals from the UK can afford to buy more than 10 times more Big Macs per hour than their colleagues from Pakistan. Technicians from the Netherlands can expect the second best median gross hourly wages (19.5\$). The same fact holds for Dutch clerical support workers (see Tables 63 -66).

Table 1: Global comparison of managers' wage

Managers	Median gross hourly wage in international US dollars	Median net hourly wage in international US dollars	Median amount of Big Macs per hour
Belgium	22.6	13.2	3.5
Finland	21.6	13.6	3.8
Germany	20.2	12.9	3.1
Netherlands	26.1	16.2	4.0
Spain	22.7	15.9	3.6
Sweden	23.4	15.9	3.1
United Kingdom	24.5	17.0	4.8
Czech Republic	13.6	9.7	2.0
Argentina	15.6	12.4	1.6
Brazil	9.1	7.4	1.4
Colombia	13.7	11.0	1.7
Mexico	12.1	8.9	2.4
Azerbaijan	9.3	7.0	.
Belarus	8.0	6.7	.
Kazakhstan	8.0	6.6	.
Russian Federation	8.7	7.4	2.2
Ukraine	6.5	5.1	.
Indonesia	6.3	5.2	1.5
South Africa	22.9	16.1	4.4

Source: WageIndicator (2010-2011); Purchasing power parity adjustment based on the IMF's WEO database (September 2011); Big Mac wage based on the Economist's Big Mac Index (July 2011)

Table 2: Global comparison of professionals' wage

Professionals	Median gross hourly wage in international US dollars	Median net hourly wage in international US dollars	Median amount of Big Macs per hour
Belgium	19.1	11.8	3.1
Finland	19.4	13.3	3.7
France	16.8	12.9	3.4
Germany	24.9	15.3	3.7
Italy	17.7	11.6	2.9
Netherlands	22.0	14.4	3.6
Spain	17.2	12.3	2.8
Sweden	19.6	13.9	2.7
United Kingdom	23.6	16.4	4.7
Czech Republic	10.6	8.0	1.6
Hungary	8.4	5.4	1.0
Argentina	13.1	10.6	1.3
Brazil	8.8	7.0	1.3
Colombia	8.1	6.4	1.0
Mexico	8.1	6.2	1.6
Azerbaijan	6.8	5.6	.
Belarus	6.7	5.6	.
Kazakhstan	6.3	5.1	.
Russian Federation	6.4	5.5	1.6
Ukraine	5.1	4.0	.
Pakistan	2.6	2.2	0.4
Indonesia	4.8	4.0	1.2
South Africa	20.0	14.8	4.1

Source: WageIndicator (2010-2011); Purchasing power parity adjustment based on the IMF's WEO database (September 2011); Big Mac wage based on the Economist's Big Mac Index (July 2011)

Table 3: Global comparison of technicians and associate professionals' wage

Technicians and associate professionals	Median gross hourly wage in international US dollars	Median net hourly wage in international US dollars	Median amount of Big Macs per hour
Belgium	16.9	10.9	2.9
Finland	16.6	11.8	3.3
France	15.9	12.1	3.2
Germany	20.2	13.0	3.2
Netherlands	19.5	13.0	3.2
Spain	15.0	10.8	2.4
Sweden	18.0	12.6	2.4
United Kingdom	18.8	13.2	3.8
Czech Republic	10.0	7.2	1.4
Hungary	6.5	4.3	0.8
Argentina	10.0	8.1	1.0
Brazil	5.3	4.4	0.8
Colombia	5.2	4.3	0.7
Chile	8.3	6.2	1.4
Mexico	5.8	4.5	1.2
Azerbaijan	6.6	6.0	.
Belarus	6.6	5.6	.
Kazakhstan	5.7	4.7	.
Russian Federation	6.6	5.6	1.7
Ukraine	4.7	3.7	.
Indonesia	4.1	3.4	1.0
South Africa	14.3	10.9	3.0

Source: WageIndicator (2010-2011); Purchasing power parity adjustment based on the IMF's WEO database (September 2011); Big Mac wage based on the Economist's Big Mac Index (July 2011)

Table 4: Global comparison of clerical support workers' wage

Clerical support workers	Median gross hourly wage in international US dollars	Median net hourly wage in international US dollars	Median amount of Big Macs per hour
Belgium	15.0	10.0	2.6
Finland	14.2	10.5	3.0
Germany	17.3	11.3	2.7
Netherlands	16.9	11.8	3.0
Spain	12.3	9.0	2.0
Sweden	15.9	11.9	2.3
United Kingdom	15.7	11.0	3.1
Czech Republic	8.3	6.4	1.3
Hungary	7.0	4.6	0.9
Argentina	8.0	6.4	0.8
Brazil	3.6	3.0	0.6
Colombia	3.9	3.3	0.5
Chile	6.0	4.4	1.0
Mexico	4.4	3.4	0.9
Azerbaijan	6.2	5.0	.
Belarus	5.8	5.0	.
Kazakhstan	6.1	5.0	.
Russian Federation	6.2	5.3	1.6
Ukraine	4.2	3.3	.
Pakistan	1.6	1.6	0.3
Indonesia	3.6	3.1	0.9
South Africa	9.9	7.9	2.2

Source: WageIndicator (2010-2011); Purchasing power parity adjustment based on the IMF's WEO database (September 2011); Big Mac wage based on the Economist's Big Mac Index (July 2011)