

ANKER LIVING WAGE REFERENCE VALUE UPDATE 2023¹

RURAL ZAMBIA

LIVING WAGE
JUNE 2023 ZMK 2,726 (146 USD)

This report updates the Anker Living Wage Reference Value for rural Zambia to 2023. The living wage reference value was originally estimated at ZMK 2,483 in 2022². The updated value takes into account the inflation accumulated in the country from June 2022 to June 2023 (9.77%)³. The value updated to 2023 is ZMK 2,726 (146 USD), and comprises a net living wage of ZMK 2,562 (USD 137) and social security and health insurance deductions for ZMK 164 (USD 9). Workers who earn a salary equal to the amount of the living wage are exempt from paying income tax in Zambia. Without accounting for inflation, the living income estimated in 2022 would not be sufficient for families to have a basic but decent standard of living in 2023, because the purchasing power of the living income would have decreased.

Table 1. Anker Living Wage Reference Value for Rural Zambia, 2022 and 2023 (in ZMK and USD)

	Original estimate 2022		June 2023	
	ZMK	USD	ZMK	USD
Anker Living Wage Reference Value (1)	2,334	139	2,562	137
Social Security and Health Insurance Contributions (2)	149	9	164	9
Anker Gross Living Wage Reference Value (1)+(2)	2,483	148	2,726	146
Exchange Rate	16.83 ^a		18.72 ^b	
Inflation since June 2022			9.77%	

Notes: USD values are indicative only, since exchange rates are volatile.

^a Average exchange rate from original report (May 2022-July 2022).

^b Average exchange rate for June 2023.

¹ Anker Research Institute engages in and disseminates high-quality research, analysis, and training related to living wage and living income (based on the Anker methodology) to inform and influence companies, empower working people, and shape public policy, thereby helping to enhance quality of life and sustainable livelihoods for working people and their families everywhere. Social Accountability International (SAI) is the institutional host. Report prepared by Marcelo Delajara and Rocío Espinosa.

² Dawani, Prates, Anker and Anker (2022). Anker Living Wage Reference Value – Rural Zambia, 2022.

³ Zambia CPI used in the estimation: <https://data.imf.org/regular.aspx?key=61015892> and <https://tradingeconomics.com/zambia/consumer-price-index-cpi>