

ANKER REFERENCE VALUE ANNUAL UPDATE 2023¹

URBAN SRI LANKA

LIVING WAGE
LKR 113,987 (USD 348)

This report updates the Anker Living Wage Reference Value for urban Sri Lanka to June 2023. This was LKR 84,231 (USD 259) in April 2022 in the original report², comprised of a Net Living Wage of LKR 77,492 (USD 238), plus a social security contribution of LKR 6,737 (USD 21). The updated Anker Gross Living Wage for June 2023 is LKR 113,987 (USD 348) per month, comprised of a Net living Wage of LKR 104,868 (USD 320), plus social security contribution of LKR 9,119 (USD 28). Inflation in this period was 35.3%³ and it increased the Net Living Wage. Without accounting for inflation, the Living Wage estimated in 2022 would not be sufficient for families to have a basic but decent standard of living in June 2023, because the purchasing power of the Living Wage would have considerably decreased. Social security contributions were calculated using laws in force in 2023.⁴

Table 1. Anker Living Wage Reference Value for urban Sri Lanka, 2022 and 2023 (in LKR and USD)

	April 2022		June 2023	
	LKR	USD	LKR	USD
Anker Net Living Wage Reference Value (1)	77,492	238	104,868	320
Social Security Contributions and Income Tax (2)	6,737	21	9,119	28
Anker Gross Living Wage Reference Value (3) = (1) + (2)	84,231	259	113,987	348
Exchange Rate	325.0^a		327.6^b	
Inflation April 2022 to June 2023	35.3%			

Notes: USD values are indicative only, since exchange rates are very volatile. ^a Average exchange rate for April 2022. ^b Average exchange rate for 02/01/23 to 16/10/23, since the exchange of the LKR against the USD was unusually low during the month of June 2023 (Central Bank of Sri Lanka: <https://www.cbsl.gov.lk/en/rates-and-indicators/exchange-rates/daily-indicative-usd-spot-exchange-rates>).

¹ Prepared by Agnes Medinaceli, Lykke E. Andersen, Marcelo Delajara, Richard Anker & Martha Anker.

² Dawani, Prates, Anker & Anker (2022). Anker Living Wage Reference Value – Urban Sri Lanka. <https://www.globallivingwage.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Urban-Sri-Lanka-LW-Urban-Reference-Value-2022-final.pdf>

³ Department of Census and Statistics: http://www.statistics.gov.lk/InflationAndPrices/StaticInformation/MonthlyCCPI/MovementsOfThe_CCPI This report uses Colombo Consumer Price Index.

⁴ Employees' Provident Fund: https://epf.lk/?page_id=2