



The National Minimum Wage

The National Minimum Wage is the minimum pay per hour almost all workers are entitled to. It does not matter how small an employer is, they still have to pay the correct minimum wage. However, how much you are entitled to varies depending on your age. As of April 2023, the National Minimum Wage is:

	23 and over (known as the National Living Wage)	21 to 22	18 to 20	Under 18
Current rate	£10.42	£10.18	£7.49	£5.28

However, these are set to rise in April 2024. The updates rates will be:

	23 and over (known as the National Living Wage)	18 to 22	16 to 17
Current rate	£11.44	£10.18	£6.40

For visa applications made after 1 April 2024 the minimum salary for international care workers is £11.90/hour or £23,200 year

The Real Living Wage

The Real Living Wage is separate and is set by the charity [Living Wage Foundation](#) each Autumn. This is a voluntary scheme which employers can sign up to and the hourly rate is independently calculated to reflect the basic cost of living. This is currently set to £13.15 an hour in London and £12.00 across the rest of the UK.

You can use this [minimum wage calculator](#) to check if you have been paid the correct wages or if your employer owes you money. You can also contact the [Acas helpline](#) for advice about the National Minimum Wage or National Living Wage.

The government also run a Pay and Work Rights Helpline which can advise you about the National Minimum Wage – on 0800 917 2368 – they also deal with complaints from workers who are being paid below the threshold.