

What's the world's average wage? 世界平均工资是多少?

Vocabulary: pay and wages 词汇: 工资

What is a fair wage? Why aren't more people in the world offered **pay equality**? These are some of the questions the United Nations International Labour Organisation (ILO) has recently investigated.

With a global population of over seven billion, is it actually possible to measure an average amount?



The ILO has now tried to work out the sums. Using the **total wage bill** from over seventy countries, they have **multiplied** the amounts by the number of earners in each country. The economists then **tallied up** the results and **divided them by** the total number across the world. The result was a world average wage equivalent to \$1,490 a month. That is approximately \$75 a day for a 20-day working month.

This figure might seem very high because they calculated the amount using **purchasing power parity dollars**, which takes into account the fact that it is cheaper to live in some countries than others. The data also did not include the huge number of people who appear in poverty statistics or who are **self-employed**.

Calculating an average sum like this might not be a completely fair representation, but these figures do help us to understand how the world is developing, both economically, in the **quality of life** people are experiencing and their **standard of living**.

But the result shows that the average wage is still relatively low and there remains a huge difference in levels of **affluence** around the world. Some people live on just two dollars a day, whilst others are earning more than a million dollars a year. Is this fair? For many, pay equality still seems very far out of reach.

词汇表请参看答案与词汇部分

Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

1. Is this statement true, false or not given? The ILO used statistics from over 70 different countries.
2. The sum the ILO calculated was: a standard wage; an approximate wage; an average wage?
3. When someone works for themselves, what are they called?
4. What data did the ILO not include in the sums?
5. What is another name used for levels of wealth?

Exercise 练习

请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. Many of those affected by the collapse of the company were on low incomes - the _____ lost was £400.

average affluence	average amount	middle amount	average pounds
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2. If we work out the adjustment for the age group of the population and then _____ three, we would get a very high number.

add by	average by	multiply by	equals by
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3. It is relatively simple to count larger animals but the smaller ones can prove more challenging - fish in particular are tricky to _____ as they move continually.

subtract up	equal up	tally up	amount up
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4. The organisation had _____ that it cost more than £15 million to ensure everything was sorted out before the ban came into place.

calculated	summed	equivalent to	subtracted
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5. The company is investing in the country by employing thousands of young people, helping to raise salaries and the _____ for many.

statistics	poverty	sums	standard of living
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Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

Quiz 小测验

1. Is this statement true, false or not given? The ILO used statistics from over 70 different countries. True
2. The sum the ILO calculated was: a standard wage; an approximate wage; an average wage? an average wage
3. When someone works for themselves, what are they called? self-employed
4. What data did the ILO not include in the sums? poverty statistics, people who are self employed
5. What is another name used for levels of wealth? affluence

Exercise 练习

1. Many of those affected by the collapse of the company were on low incomes - the average amount lost was £400.
2. If we work out the adjustment for the age group of the population and then multiply by three, we would get a very high number.
3. It is relatively simple to count larger animals but the smaller ones can prove more challenging - fish in particular are tricky to tally up as they move continually.
4. The organisation had calculated that it cost more than £15 million to ensure everything was sorted out before the ban came into place.
5. The company is investing in the country by employing thousands of young people, helping to raise salaries and the standard of living for many.

Glossary 词汇表

a fair wage	公平的工资
pay equality	平等的工资
an average amount	平均数量
sums	总数
the total wage bill (total pay amount)	工资总数
multiplied by	乘以
an earner	赚钱的人
to tally up	加起来
divided by	除以
equivalent to	相对于
figures	数据
to calculate	计算
purchasing power parity (calculation for working out how much money is needed to purchase the same goods and services in two different countries)	购买力平价
to take into account	考虑到
statistics	统计数据
self-employed	自雇人士
quality of life	生活质量
standard of living	生活水平
affluence	富裕