



## Time Is Big Mac

While performing identical tasks around the world, McDonald's employees hold very different living standards. The data suggest large differences in the **wage rates** received by workers doing the same work and using the same skills in the rich and poor countries.

A real wage rate is a **nominal wage** rate divided by the **price of a good** and is a transparent measure of how much of the good an hour of work buys. It is an important indicator of the living standards, and the productivity of workers.

The table below calculates the real wage rate, using the price of **Big-Macs** as the comparable price of a good, and the nominal **hourly wage** of **McDonald's employees**, in some of the fastest and slowest earning countries. We have chosen to present a country per continent.

This gap highlights the growth of wealthy countries and the stagnation of poor ones. Please mind this gap.

| Country      | Mc Employee Hourly Wage (USD) | BigMac price (USD) | BigMac's Per Hours | Hours for BigMac |
|--------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Australia    | 13.4                          | 3.9                | 3.435897436        | 0.2910447761     |
| Italy        | 9.2                           | 4.7                | 1.957446809        | 0.5108695652     |
| USA          | 9.03                          | 5.51               | 1.638838475        | 0.6101882614     |
| Mexico       | 1                             | 2.8                | 0.3571428571       | 2.8              |
| South Africa | 0.97                          | 3.2                | 0.303125           | 3.298969072      |
| India        | 0.66                          | 2.37               | 0.2784810127       | 3.590909091      |

\*The data presented is relevant to 2019 and is courtesy of: McDonald's WebSite, Glassdoor, The Economist, Business Insider, Fast Food Menu Price.com

\*\*All prices are represented in US Dollar

\*\*\* In India and the USA the price of Big Mac is average since the price in the country fluctuates.

**Organizations to fight for the cause:**

[WAAKE UP!](#) - a coalition of people dedicated to social, environmental, political, and economic equality and justice.

[Global Trade Watch](#) - Global Trade Watch's mission is to ensure that in this era of globalization, a majority have the opportunity to enjoy economic security, a clean environment, safe food, medicines and products, access to quality affordable services such as health care and the exercise of democratic decision-making about the matters that affect our lives.