

National Minimum Wage and National Living Wage rates

The hourly rate for the minimum wage depends on your age and whether [you're an apprentice](#) ([/become-apprentice](#)).

This page is also available [in Welsh \(Cymraeg\)](#) ([/cyfraddau-isafswm-cyflog-cenedlaethol](#)).

You must be at least:

- [school leaving age](#) ([/know-when-you-can-leave-school](#)) to get the National Minimum Wage
- aged 21 to get the National Living Wage - the minimum wage will still apply for workers aged 20 and under

Current rates

The rates change on 1 April every year.

	21 and over	18 to 20	Under 18	Apprentice
April 2025	£12.21	£10	£7.55	£7.55
April 2026	£12.71	£10.85	£8	£8

Apprentices

Apprentices are entitled to the apprentice rate if they're either:

- aged under 19
- aged 19 or over and in the first year of their apprenticeship

Example

An apprentice aged 21 in the first year of their apprenticeship is entitled to a minimum hourly rate of £7.55.

Apprentices are entitled to the minimum wage for their age if they both:

- are aged 19 or over
- have completed the first year of their apprenticeship

Example

An apprentice aged 21 who has completed the first year of their apprenticeship is entitled to a minimum hourly rate of £12.21.

Previous rates

The following rates were for the National Living Wage and the National Minimum Wage from April 2018.

Rates from 1 April 2024

From 1 April 2024 the National Living Wage has been for those aged 21 and over.

	21 and over	18 to 20	Under 18	Apprentice
April 2024	£11.44	£8.60	£6.40	£6.40

Rates between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2024

Between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2024 the National Living Wage was for those aged 23 and over.

	23 and over	21 to 22	18 to 20	Under 18	Apprentice
April 2023 to March 2024	£10.42	£10.18	£7.49	£5.28	£5.28
April 2022 to March 2023	£9.50	£9.18	£6.83	£4.81	£4.81
April 2021 to March 2022	£8.91	£8.36	£6.56	£4.62	£4.30

Rates before 1 April 2021

Before 1 April 2021 the National Living Wage was for those aged 25 and over.

	25 and over	21 to 24	18 to 20	Under 18	Apprentice
April 2020 to March 2021	£8.72	£8.20	£6.45	£4.55	£4.15
April 2019 to March 2020	£8.21	£7.70	£6.15	£4.35	£3.90
April 2018 to March 2019	£7.83	£7.38	£5.90	£4.20	£3.70

Who gets the minimum wage

Read the information on [who is entitled to the minimum wage \(/national-minimum-wage/who-gets-the-minimum-wage\)](#).

You can use the [minimum wage calculator \(/am-i-getting-minimum-wage\)](#) to check whether the National Minimum Wage or National Living Wage is being paid.

[Contact Acas \(/pay-and-work-rights-helpline\)](#) if you're not getting the National Minimum Wage and think you should be.

