İBARMAKİNA

Block making in Kenya

What a block costs to make, what it sells for, and what a BLOCKMASTER 4, 8 or 10 earns each month

9-inch block (400×200×225 mm) · machine-made, vibrated and pressed



BLOCKMASTER 8

1 How much material goes into one block?

One of our customers made **7,500 blocks of 400×200×150 mm with 120 bags of cement, 55.5 m³ of sand and 37 m³ of chippings**: **62.5 blocks per bag**. For this block size that is about **51.7 blocks per bag**.

Material	Per block	Per 1,000 blocks
Cement	1.0 kg	19 bags of 50 kg
Quarry dust	9.0 litres	9.0 m³
Ballast	6.0 litres	6.0 m³

Hand-moulded blocks get far fewer blocks from a bag, because the mix is not vibrated. A machine gives strong, regular blocks from every bag.

What one block costs in Nairobi

Cement	KSh 15
Quarry dust	KSh 19
Ballast	KSh 14
Labour	KSh 2
Generator diesel	KSh 3
Water, curing, maintenance, breakage (+6%)	KSh 3
Cost per block	**≈KSh 55**

Prices used: cement KSh 760 a bag · quarry dust KSh 2,100 per m³ · ballast KSh 2,400 per m³ · labourer KSh 900 a day · diesel KSh 227.76 a litre

2 Selling price and profit per block

City	Cost (KSh)	Selling price (KSh)	Profit per block (KSh)	Margin
Nairobi	≈55	70–90	**15–35**	21–39 %
Mombasa	≈59	75–90	**16–31**	21–34 %
Kisumu	≈56	75–90	**19–34**	25–38 %
Nakuru	≈55	70–85	**15–30**	21–35 %
Eldoret	≈56	70–85	**14–29**	20–34 %

9-inch block (400×200×225 mm) · 9-inch block, 400×200×225 mm; outside Nairobi, estimated prices

1 block · Nairobi

≈55 → 70–90

KSh · cost → price

+15–35

KSh · profit per block (21–39 %)

3 What each machine earns (Nairobi)

The machine runs at full capacity, 26 days a month, and the yard sells its full output. Cautious: 5% material waste, operator pay 30% higher, 10% other costs and fixed costs (manager, security, rent, maintenance) deducted.



BLOCKMASTER 4

Output per day	**4,000 blocks**
Crew	**8 people**

Materials per day: 77 bags of cement · 35.8 m³ sand · 23.9 m³ chippings

Net profit per month · selling at KSh 70
KSh 777,000
≈ 6,000 USD

Net profit per month · selling at KSh 90
KSh 2.9 million
≈ 22,000 USD



BLOCKMASTER 8

Output per day	**8,000 blocks**
Crew	**11 people**

Materials per day: 155 bags of cement · 71.6 m³ sand · 47.8 m³ chippings

Net profit per month · selling at KSh 70
KSh 1.9 million
≈ 14,700 USD

Net profit per month · selling at KSh 90
KSh 6.1 million
≈ 46,700 USD



BLOCKMASTER 10

Output per day	**10,000 blocks**
Crew	**14 people**

Materials per day: 194 bags of cement · 89.5 m³ sand · 59.7 m³ chippings

Net profit per month · selling at KSh 70
KSh 2.5 million
≈ 19,400 USD

Net profit per month · selling at KSh 90
KSh 7.7 million
≈ 59,400 USD

4 Our machines in Africa

We have installed block making machines in more than 30 countries, including Ghana, Uganda, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Senegal and Gabon.







See all our installations →

With İBAR MAKİNA

- Installation and operator training included in the price
- 2-year warranty on our machines
- Spare parts shipped from stock the same day
- Over 45 years of experience, installations in more than 30 countries

Not included in this calculation

Land, buildings, curing yard, delivery trucks, depreciation, taxes and loan repayments. Prices change: let's redo the calculation with your own prices.

Let's do the calculation with your prices

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Full guide: ibarmakina.com/en/block-making-business-profitable-kenya-cost-per-block/