İBARMAKİNA

Block making in Zambia

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

6-inch block (400×200×150 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 with 30 mm shells. With **25 mm shells** the block needs about 14% less concrete, so **one bag makes about 73 six-inch blocks**.

Material	Per block	Per 1,000 blocks
Cement	0.7 kg	14 bags of 50 kg
Sand	6.3 litres	6.3 m³
Crushed stone	4.2 litres	4.2 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 Solwezi

Cement	K2.74
Sand	K4
Crushed stone	K2.92
Labour	K0.24
Generator diesel	K0.3
Water, curing, maintenance, breakage (+6%)	K0.61
Cost per block	**≈K10.81**

Prices used: cement K200 a bag · sand K630 per m³ · crushed stone K690 per m³ · labourer K150 a day · diesel K33.27 a litre

2 Selling price and profit per block

City	Cost (K)	Selling price (K)	Profit per block (K)	Margin
Solwezi	≈10.81	14–18	**3.19–7.19**	23–40 %

6-inch block (400×200×150 mm) · 6-inch block, 400×200×150 mm, 25 mm shells; Solwezi (North-Western Province)

1 block · Solwezi

≈10.81 → 14–18

K · cost → price

+3.19–7.19

K · profit per block (23–40 %)

3 What each machine earns (Solwezi)

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	**5,000 blocks**
Crew	**8 people**

Materials per day: 69 bags of cement · 31.7 m³ sand · 21.1 m³ chippings

Net profit per month · selling at K14
K253,000
≈ 12,500 USD

Net profit per month · selling at K18
K773,000
≈ 38,200 USD



BLOCKMASTER 8

Output per day	**10,000 blocks**
Crew	**11 people**

Materials per day: 137 bags of cement · 63.4 m³ sand · 42.3 m³ chippings

Net profit per month · selling at K14
K562,000
≈ 27,800 USD

Net profit per month · selling at K18
K1.6 million
≈ 79,300 USD



BLOCKMASTER 10

Output per day	**12,000 blocks**
Crew	**14 people**

Materials per day: 165 bags of cement · 76.1 m³ sand · 50.7 m³ chippings

Net profit per month · selling at K14
K683,000
≈ 33,800 USD

Net profit per month · selling at K18
K1.9 million
≈ 95,600 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-zambia-cost-per-block/