

Occupational Employment and Wages in North Carolina (OES)

Data released in 2009

Occupation	Estimated Employment	Response Rate(%)	Estimated Hourly wage; entry	Estimated Hourly wage; mean	Estimated Hourly wage; median	Estimated Hourly wage; experience
Arts- Design- Entertainment- Sports- and Media Occ	39290	74	10.44	20.49	17.35	25.51
Art Directors	440	88	18.22	33.83	28.01	41.63
Craft Artists	190	100	8.49	12.76	12.49	14.89
Fine Artists- Including Painters- Sculptors- and I	180	81	14.31	19.25	18.75	21.72
Multi-Media Artists and Animators	720	85	16.15	24.51	22.84	28.69
Artists and Related Workers- All Other	130	90	10.06	25.38	20.09	33.03
Commercial and Industrial Designers	740	83	0	0	0	0
Fashion Designers	180	76	16.28	27.95	24.86	33.78
Floral Designers	1800	40	7.52	11.16	11.12	12.98
Graphic Designers	4940	86	12.73	19.44	18.26	22.8
Interior Designers	1620	86	13.37	21.18	19.1	25.09
Merchandise Displayers and Window Trimmers	900	33	8.67	14.06	12.57	16.75
Set and Exhibit Designers	280	83	12.52	19.61	14.96	23.16
Designers- All Other	140	82	18.1	26.71	24.65	31.01
Producers and Directors	0	77	14.03	26.37	23.04	32.54
Athletes and Sports Competitors	1030	80	0	0	0	0
Coaches and Scouts	5240	80	0	0	0	0
Dancers	120	86	7.1	10.7	8.62	12.5
Choreographers	110	92	0	0	0	0
Music Directors and Composers	80	72	8.71	20.21	16.32	25.95
Musicians and Singers	580	94	7.05	21.42	21.73	28.6
Entertainers and Performers- Sports and Related Wo	140	89	7.28	16.19	13.18	20.65
Radio and Television Announcers	1270	75	7.69	15.16	11.48	18.89
Public Address System and Other Announcers	250	73	7.67	20.98	14.43	27.63
Broadcast News Analysts	150	77	11.06	27.53	18.02	35.76
Reporters and Correspondents	1170	77	10.99	18.28	15.33	21.92
Public Relations Specialists	4400	79	15.22	24.07	21.74	28.5
Editors	1990	81	14.27	23.76	23.07	28.51
Technical Writers	950	75	20.39	30.31	29.28	35.27
Writers and Authors	720	90	13	23.3	21.53	28.45
Interpreters and Translators	1190	66	10.79	16.11	14.29	18.76
Media and Communication Workers- All Other	760	86	12.92	21.49	17.1	25.78
Audio and Video Equipment Technicians	780	82	12.01	18.31	17.01	21.46
Broadcast Technicians	920	73	9.25	16.57	15.86	20.23

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Radio Operators	150	38	14.84	18.51	18.42	20.34
Sound Engineering Technicians	160	82	13.87	19.5	18.56	22.32
Photographers	1630	66	9.31	18.28	14.07	22.77
Camera Operators- Television- Video & Motion Pict.	260	92	10.62	17.8	17.43	21.39
Film and Video Editors	400	93	12.29	17.69	16.24	20.39
Media & Communication Equipment Workers- All Other	330	94	13.3	26.2	25.41	32.65

The employment and wage data represented here are estimates only. Due to confidentiality and quality criteria, the Labor Market Information Division cannot produce them for every occupation in every geographic area. Data for the surveys were collected on different occupational structures and therefore are not directly comparable. The Bureau of Labor Statistics is now reporting the Occupational Employment Survey estimates annually. Each annual estimate is based on the most recent two semi-annual surveys, and represents the most current data available. These annual estimates are published in late spring.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) Occupational Employment Statistics(OES) program in North Carolina conducts a semi annual mail survey of employers to produce estimates of occupational employment and wages. This program collects data on wage and salary workers in non-farm establishments, gathering employment and wage information on approximately 800 occupations within statewide industries, and reports the resultant occupational estimates by geographic area and by industry. In this study, estimates based on geographic areas are available at the state, metropolitan statistical area (MSA), county, workforce development board area and economic development region levels. The industry classification corresponds to the four-digit North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). The BLS produces occupational employment and wage estimates at the National level.

The OES survey has been designed to produce estimates using three years of sample data. With approximately 12,000 establishments surveyed each year in North Carolina, a total of 36,000 establishments would be surveyed over a three-year period. Adjustments are applied to previous years' wage data before combining with current data.

Employment is defined as the number of full-time and part-time employees, workers on paid vacation or other type of paid leave, workers assigned temporarily to other units and paid owners, officers and staff of incorporated firms. The survey excludes proprietors, owners and partners of unincorporated firms, unpaid family workers, workers on unpaid leave and contractors and temporary agency employees not on the company payroll.

Wages for the survey are straight time, gross pay, exclusive of premium pay. Base rate, cost-of-living allowances, tips, guaranteed pay, hazardous-duty pay, incentive pay, commissions, production bonuses and on-call pay are included. Excluded is back pay, jury duty pay, overtime pay, severance pay, shift differentials, non-production bonuses and tuition reimbursements.

There is a small group of occupations, primarily in teaching, where a standard work-year assumption is not considered valid. For this group, the annual wage is calculated directly from the reported data. An hourly wage for these workers cannot be calculated because the number of hours worked is not known. In addition to teachers, the occupations include actors, athletes, coaches, sports officials, flight attendants and pilots.

Hourly earnings data are collected in 12 wage intervals. Employers report the number of employees in an occupation by these intervals. With the exception of the upper open-ended wage interval, a mean wage value is calculated for each wage interval based on occupational wage data collected by the Office of Compensation and Working Conditions. The mean wage value for the upper open-ended wage interval is its lower bound. These interval mean wage values are then attributed to all workers reported in the interval. For each occupation, total weighted wages in each interval are summed across all intervals and divided by the total occupational employment. This calculates an estimated average (mean) wage.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics calculates employment and wage estimates for each of the states, MSAs and Balance-of-State areas within each state. As of the June 2006 release, Metropolitan Statistical Area definitions are based on the 2000 Census definitions, and may not be comparable with the old definitions. In order to better meet local user needs, the North Carolina OES staff has produced wage estimates for other geographies within the state. These estimates incorporate data from the OES survey and are generated utilizing BLS approved methodology. Additional statistics are provided for these local areas, including an entry and experienced wage. The mean of the first third of the wage distribution is used as a proxy for the entry wage. An experienced wage is represented by the mean of the upper two thirds of the wage distribution.

If the confidentiality guidelines are not met, the occupational wage is suppressed. Wage information, in the counties which did not have enough establishment response to produce 10 or more valid occupational wages, default to the occupational wage information for the Workforce Development Board in which the county is located. If the county is located within an MSA, a choice of MSA or Workforce Development Board wages is offered. In Statewide by Industry, limited occupational employment and wage information may be available for some NAICS because of the small number of establishments in the state and confidentiality guideline criteria.