

Average Wage Per Job in North Dakota: 1997 to 2002

The average wage per job in North Dakota rose to \$26,278 in 2002, an increase of 3.4 percent from \$25,412 in 2001. Nationwide wages rose 1.6 percent between 2001 and 2002 (from \$35,604 to \$36,167), the same pace as inflation (Table 1).

The average wage earned in North Dakota was approximately 27 percent below the national average of \$36,167 in 2002. Nationally, only three other states had lower averages; Mississippi (\$26,191), South Dakota (\$25,936), and Montana (\$25,790). Connecticut had the highest average wage per job in 2002 at \$45,830, followed by New York (\$45,667) and Massachusetts (\$43,865).

Statewide, Oliver and Mercer counties had the highest average wages per job in 2002 at \$40,516 and \$36,759, respectively. However, both Oliver and Mercer (along with Steele, Sheridan, McHenry, Mckenzie, and Billings counties) experienced losses in average wages between 2001 and 2002 (Table 2).



Table 1. Average Wage Per Job in North Dakota and Surrounding States by Metropolitan Area: 1997 to 2002

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), Regional Economic Information System (REIS), Table CA34, <<http://www.bea.doc.gov/bea/regional/reis>>, March 2004. Note: MSA - Metropolitan Statistical Areas defined by the Office of Management and Budget.

Area	Average Wage Per Job (Dollars)						Percent Change	
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2001-2002	1997-2002
North Dakota	21,739	22,633	23,373	24,348	25,412	26,278	3.4	20.9
(Non-Metropolitan Portion)	20,091	20,833	21,424	22,353	23,485	24,201	3.0	20.5
(Metropolitan Portion)	23,245	24,240	25,090	26,089	27,077	28,047	3.6	20.7
Bismarck, ND MSA	22,952	23,859	24,431	25,419	26,723	27,539	3.1	20.0
Fargo-Moorhead, ND-MN MSA	23,246	24,475	25,418	26,419	27,331	28,429	4.0	22.3
Grand Forks, ND-MN MSA	22,050	22,579	23,153	24,095	24,806	25,746	3.8	16.8
Minnesota	29,663	31,393	32,708	34,660	35,783	36,651	2.4	23.6
(Non-Metropolitan Portion)	21,815	22,787	23,593	24,608	25,321	26,349	4.1	20.8
(Metropolitan Portion)	32,036	33,971	35,410	37,609	38,846	39,713	2.2	24.0
Duluth-Superior, MN-WI MSA	24,796	25,912	26,988	28,041	29,139	30,311	4.0	22.2
Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN-WI MSA	33,119	35,110	36,645	39,005	40,267	41,086	2.0	24.1
Rochester, MN MSA	29,877	31,387	33,038	34,204	35,642	36,988	3.8	23.8
St. Cloud, MN MSA	23,174	25,700	25,691	26,876	27,678	28,944	4.6	24.9
Montana	21,766	22,445	23,057	24,084	24,981	25,790	3.2	18.5
(Non-Metropolitan Portion)	20,954	21,661	22,165	23,126	24,048	24,840	3.3	18.5
(Metropolitan Portion)	22,972	23,600	24,356	25,485	26,331	27,159	3.1	18.2
Billings, MT MSA	23,981	24,373	25,125	26,309	27,441	28,099	2.4	17.2
Great Falls, MT MSA	22,356	23,159	23,907	24,657	25,129	26,129	4.0	16.9
Missoula, MT MSA	22,047	22,847	23,610	24,942	25,668	26,593	3.6	20.6
South Dakota	21,148	22,262	23,222	24,323	25,157	25,936	3.1	22.6
(Non-Metropolitan Portion)	18,934	19,768	20,539	21,519	22,251	22,919	3.0	21.0
(Metropolitan Portion)	23,547	24,891	25,979	27,161	28,079	28,937	3.1	22.9
Rapid City, SD MSA	21,515	22,166	23,315	24,339	25,543	26,626	4.2	23.8
Sioux Falls, SD MSA	23,936	25,250	26,278	27,356	28,419	29,396	3.4	22.8
United States	29,858	31,411	32,774	34,718	35,604	36,167	1.6	21.1
(Non-Metropolitan Portion)	22,250	23,173	23,867	24,754	25,541	26,310	3.0	18.2
(Metropolitan Portion)	31,151	32,794	34,252	36,352	37,243	37,777	1.4	21.3

Table 2. Average Wage Per Job in North Dakota by County: 1997 to 2002

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), Regional Economic Information System (REIS), Table CA34, <<http://www.bea.doc.gov/bea/regional/reis>>, March 2004.

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	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2001-2002	1997-2002
North Dakota	21,739	22,633	23,373	24,348	25,412	26,278	3.4	20.9
Adams	18,302	18,529	19,360	19,733	21,647	21,767	0.6	18.9
Barnes	17,306	18,421	18,860	19,348	19,840	20,820	4.9	20.3
Benson	18,976	17,698	19,003	21,183	22,558	23,151	2.6	22.0
Billings	13,606	14,749	15,347	16,739	17,792	17,469	-1.8	28.4
Bottineau	16,337	17,079	17,241	18,444	19,218	19,885	3.5	21.7
Bowman	16,573	17,245	17,046	18,012	19,937	20,718	3.9	25.0
Burke	18,702	19,026	19,568	21,086	22,096	22,644	2.5	21.1
Burleigh	23,256	24,144	24,697	25,731	26,965	27,889	3.4	19.9
Cass	23,791	25,126	26,215	27,215	28,158	29,242	3.9	22.9
Cavalier	18,210	19,079	20,150	20,305	21,994	22,610	2.8	24.2
Dickey	16,841	17,774	18,325	18,839	19,582	20,420	4.3	21.3
Divide	13,764	14,084	14,776	15,843	17,234	18,877	9.5	37.1
Dunn	17,763	18,618	18,830	20,105	20,840	21,469	3.0	20.9
Eddy	15,848	16,996	17,808	18,536	18,917	19,853	4.9	25.3
Emmons	15,975	16,274	16,731	17,673	18,449	18,791	1.9	17.6
Foster	18,388	19,087	19,842	21,482	22,016	23,269	5.7	26.5
Golden Valley	17,418	17,856	16,645	17,336	17,769	18,299	3.0	5.1
Grand Forks	22,530	22,929	23,595	24,544	25,198	26,143	3.8	16.0
Grant	15,255	15,983	15,714	16,499	17,307	18,392	6.3	20.6
Griggs	17,343	18,010	19,047	20,535	20,711	20,930	1.1	20.7
Hettinger	16,274	16,844	17,822	18,405	19,507	19,805	1.5	21.7
Kidder	15,457	15,948	16,306	17,502	18,885	19,503	3.3	26.2
LaMoure	15,453	16,310	16,478	17,711	18,569	19,361	4.3	25.3
Logan	13,565	14,320	14,916	15,788	17,000	17,941	5.5	32.3
McHenry	16,963	17,268	18,041	18,440	20,181	19,952	-1.1	17.6
McIntosh	14,656	15,621	15,998	16,997	17,990	18,935	5.3	29.2
McKenzie	19,881	20,615	21,299	22,449	23,737	23,417	-1.3	17.8
McLean	22,881	23,902	25,199	25,006	26,267	27,278	3.8	19.2
Mercer	31,566	32,830	33,500	35,050	37,109	36,759	-0.9	16.5
Morton	21,553	22,539	23,205	23,947	25,547	25,824	1.1	19.8
Mountrail	17,791	18,689	19,792	20,651	21,303	22,448	5.4	26.2
Nelson	16,575	17,097	17,334	17,409	18,290	20,013	9.4	20.7
Oliver	36,992	38,425	38,627	40,904	44,550	40,516	-9.1	9.5
Pembina	22,623	24,158	24,914	25,308	26,479	27,105	2.4	19.8
Pierce	17,384	17,916	17,715	18,003	19,935	20,990	5.3	20.7
Ramsey	17,895	18,345	18,812	19,465	20,689	21,138	2.2	18.1
Ransom	18,881	18,860	20,011	21,827	22,868	23,887	4.5	26.5
Renville	17,121	17,673	17,586	19,024	20,458	20,929	2.3	22.2
Richland	21,766	22,528	23,432	24,329	25,133	25,909	3.1	19.0
Rolette	19,840	20,741	20,949	21,726	22,530	22,694	0.7	14.4
Sargent	28,694	29,763	32,738	33,475	33,196	35,007	5.5	22.0
Sheridan	18,913	17,495	20,421	19,064	19,529	19,385	-0.7	2.5
Sioux	21,015	21,502	22,609	23,657	25,481	25,651	0.7	22.1
Slope	15,204	17,022	16,086	18,094	19,945	21,129	5.9	39.0
Stark	19,214	20,024	20,447	21,144	22,331	23,211	3.9	20.8
Steele	19,749	20,538	21,036	22,617	23,028	22,942	-0.4	16.2
Stutsman	20,014	21,091	21,507	22,751	23,886	24,627	3.1	23.0
Towner	17,751	18,995	18,982	19,596	20,061	20,565	2.5	15.9
Traill	18,454	19,984	20,282	21,622	22,398	23,164	3.4	25.5
Walsh	17,946	18,845	19,347	19,926	21,006	21,819	3.9	21.6
Ward	21,656	22,340	23,122	24,024	24,981	26,136	4.6	20.7
Wells	16,793	17,743	18,596	18,985	20,032	20,759	3.6	23.6
Williams	20,965	21,131	20,798	22,228	24,455	24,507	0.2	16.9