

Average Private Sector Wages

2026 Tier One		2026 Tier Two		2026 Tier Three	
County	Average Private Sector Wage	County	Average Private Sector Wage	County	Average Private Sector Wage
Alexander	\$44,270	Alamance	\$52,486	Brunswick	\$51,852
Anson	\$46,547	Alleghany	\$46,191	Cabarrus	\$54,013
Bertie	\$43,032	Ashe	\$48,329	Camden	\$51,762
Bladen	\$48,885	Avery	\$45,588	Carteret	\$44,153
Burke	\$49,020	Beaufort	\$50,175	Chatham	\$53,751
Caldwell	\$51,338	Buncombe	\$59,020	Currituck	\$45,225
Caswell	\$50,323	Catawba	\$56,937	Davie	\$52,772
Cleveland	\$51,381	Cherokee	\$45,422	Durham	\$102,817
Columbus	\$45,700	Chowan	\$47,994	Iredell	\$64,895
Cumberland	\$49,382	Clay	\$47,047	Johnston	\$55,456
Edgecombe	\$46,689	Craven	\$50,998	Lincoln	\$55,161
Greene	\$43,732	Dare	\$44,866	Macon	\$47,004
Halifax	\$46,332	Davidson	\$54,395	Mecklenburg	\$90,706
Hertford	\$47,917	Duplin	\$45,210	Moore	\$55,708
Hoke	\$45,256	Forsyth	\$68,864	New Hanover	\$63,326
Hyde	\$40,552	Franklin	\$58,038	Orange	\$70,442
Jones	\$48,184	Gaston	\$54,736	Pender	\$46,458
Lenoir	\$51,026	Gates	\$45,912	Stanly	\$43,248
Madison	\$47,226	Graham	\$49,651	Union	\$63,622
Martin	\$38,028	Granville	\$56,634	Wake	\$80,616
McDowell	\$47,573	Guilford	\$62,455		
Mitchell	\$50,263	Harnett	\$45,888		
Nash	\$53,981	Haywood	\$47,053		
Northampton	\$52,448	Henderson	\$54,118		
Pasquotank	\$47,441	Jackson	\$46,208		
Pitt	\$56,187	Lee	\$59,903		
Richmond	\$47,140	Montgomery	\$48,925		
Robeson	\$44,628	Onslow	\$43,455		
Rockingham	\$46,154	Pamlico	\$33,069		
Rutherford	\$48,942	Perquimans	\$44,489		
Sampson	\$49,748	Person	\$50,079		
Scotland	\$49,091	Polk	\$45,663		
Tyrrell	\$44,025	Randolph	\$52,914		
Vance	\$47,473	Rowan	\$57,155		
Warren	\$39,090	Stokes	\$40,475		
Washington	\$52,666	Surry	\$50,817		
Wayne	\$47,739	Swain	\$36,677		
Wilkes	\$50,246	Transylvania	\$49,554		
Wilson	\$54,673	Watauga	\$45,852		
Yancey	\$49,963	Yadkin	\$45,605		
				North Carolina	\$70,672

Source: Calculated by the NC Dept. of Commerce, Labor & Economic Analysis Division. For programmatic purposes, these annualized average wages have been calculated using the most recent four quarters of available Quarterly Census of Employment and Wage (QCEW) data as of January 2026 (2024 Q3 through 2025 Q2).