A TEACHER'S LIFE BY THE NUMBERS



Orange County, CA

Teachers in the US **rate their lives better** than all other occupation groups, trailing only physicians.

SALARY

The **average** wage of all **full-time workers** in the county: **$84,812***

Base Salary →

1st Year Teacher with a B.A.

$60,479 - $82,118

15th Year Teacher with a M.A.+

$99,053 - $123,019

Data from 2025-2026

Plus

$3,196 – $7,527

FOR LARGE COMMITMENTS like head coach, debate, or band





$863 - $5,441

FOR SMALL COMMITMENTS like robotics club or yearbook

HOUSING

Median **home** value: **$1,178,889***

Fair Market rent for a **2-bedroom apartment: $2,625***

A salary of **$71,300** can buy a home like this:*



$290,000

*With a 5% down payment, spending 36% of their income on housing

A salary of **$111,000** can buy a home like this: *



$470,000

*With a 20% down payment, spending 36% of their income on housing

RETIREMENT

Most teaching jobs have better retirement benefits than other jobs you can get with the same degree.

59 Teacher average retirement age

4 YEARS EARLIER

63 All careers average retirement age

GettheFactsOut.org

Created by CD 10.27.26

*U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics, Zillow, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation. NSF DUE 1821710 & 1821462, and 2337285.