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: $58,344*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Salary Range</th>
<th>Plus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Year Teacher with a B.A.</td>
<td>$36,389-$43,903</td>
<td>$1,428-$7,513</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15th Year Teacher with a M.A.</td>
<td>$71,927-$82,006</td>
<td>$564-$6,199</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data from 2022-2023

**HOUSING**

Median home value: $228,955*

Fair Market rent for a 2-bedroom apartment: $881*

A salary of $40,100 can buy a home like this:* $145,000

A salary of $77,000 can buy a home like this: * $350,000

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

*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.

Teacher average retirement age: 59

4 YEARS EARLIER

All careers average retirement age: 63

Kalamazoo County, MI

*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 1821716 & 1821462.