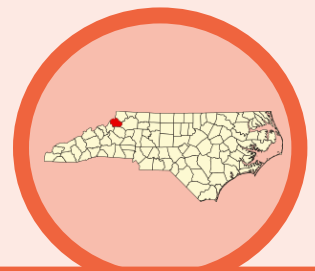


A TEACHER'S LIFE BY THE NUMBERS



Watauga County, NC

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

SALARY

Base Salary →

Plus

The **average** wage of all **full-time workers** in the county: **\$49,816***



1st Year Teacher with a B.A.

\$43,300 - \$44,050

15th Year Teacher with a M.A.+

\$62,136

Data from 2025-2026

FOR LARGE COMMITMENTS like head coach, debate, or band

\$1,000 - \$5,000



\$1,000 - \$1,500

FOR SMALL COMMITMENTS like robotics club or yearbook

HOUSING

Median **home** value: **\$507,410***



Fair Market rent for a **2-bedroom apartment**: **\$1,274***



A salary of **\$43,700** can buy a home like this: *



\$195,000

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

A salary of **\$62,136** can buy a home like this: *



\$320,000

*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

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Created by CD 7.17.26

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