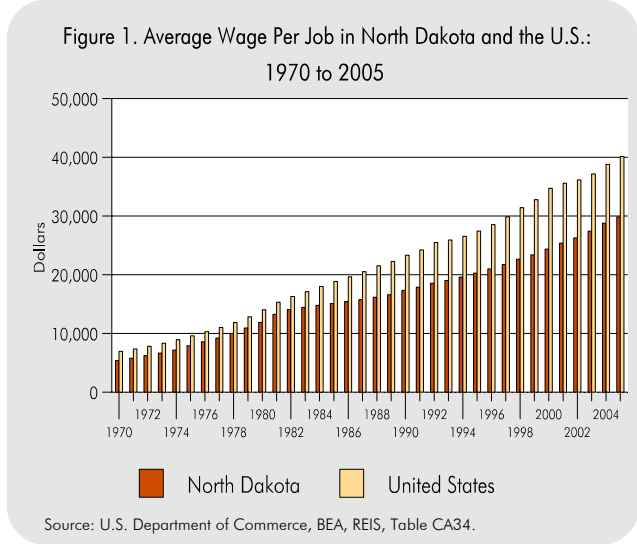


## Average Wage Per Job in North Dakota: 2005

The average wage per job in North Dakota rose to \$29,818 in 2005, an increase of 4.0 percent per year, on average, since 1998. Nationally, wages rose an average of 3.6 percent annually between 1998 and 2005, reaching \$40,146 (Table 1). Both rates of increase were slightly higher than inflation, which has risen an average of 2.6 percent per year since 1998.

The average wage earned in North Dakota was 25.7 percent below the national average in 2005 (Figure 1). Nationally, three other states had lower averages than North Dakota: Mississippi (\$29,413), Montana (\$29,139), and South Dakota (\$28,951). Connecticut had the highest average wage per job in 2005 (\$51,805), followed by New York (\$51,165) and Massachusetts (\$48,960).

When considering the annual average percent change in average wages for North Dakota counties since 1998, all counties experienced growth of at least 2 percent per year (Table 2).



**Table 1. Average Wage Per Job in ND, Surrounding States, & the U.S. by Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA): 1998 to 2005**

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

Area	Average Wage Per Job (Dollars)								Annual Average % Change: 1998-2005
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	
<b>North Dakota</b>	<b>22,633</b>	<b>23,373</b>	<b>24,348</b>	<b>25,365</b>	<b>26,269</b>	<b>27,413</b>	<b>28,789</b>	<b>29,818</b>	<b>4.0</b>
(Non-Metropolitan Portion)	20,833	21,424	22,353	23,449	24,244	25,300	26,637	27,855	4.2
(Metropolitan Portion)	24,240	25,090	26,089	27,021	27,995	29,178	30,563	31,408	3.8
Bismarck, ND MSA	23,859	24,431	25,419	26,697	27,493	29,023	30,359	31,105	3.9
Fargo, ND-MN MSA	24,475	25,418	26,419	27,288	28,377	29,472	30,925	31,721	3.8
Grand Forks, ND-MN MSA	22,579	23,153	24,095	24,803	25,815	26,656	27,737	28,260	3.3
<b>Minnesota</b>	<b>31,393</b>	<b>32,708</b>	<b>34,660</b>	<b>35,801</b>	<b>36,670</b>	<b>37,772</b>	<b>39,544</b>	<b>39,957</b>	<b>3.5</b>
(Non-Metropolitan Portion)	22,787	23,593	24,608	25,362	26,370	27,082	28,261	28,471	3.2
(Metropolitan Portion)	33,971	35,410	37,609	38,858	39,731	40,945	42,885	43,339	3.6
Duluth, MN-WI MSA	25,912	26,988	28,041	29,157	30,357	30,921	32,254	32,395	3.3
Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN-WI MSA	35,110	36,645	39,005	40,277	41,101	42,349	44,376	44,890	3.6
Rochester, MN MSA	31,387	33,038	34,204	35,658	36,997	38,730	40,157	40,683	3.8
St. Cloud, MN MSA	25,700	25,691	26,876	27,699	28,981	29,767	31,079	31,110	2.8
<b>Montana</b>	<b>22,445</b>	<b>23,057</b>	<b>24,084</b>	<b>24,959</b>	<b>25,923</b>	<b>26,814</b>	<b>27,750</b>	<b>29,139</b>	<b>3.8</b>
(Non-Metropolitan Portion)	21,661	22,165	23,126	24,015	24,960	25,826	26,750	28,234	3.9
(Metropolitan Portion)	23,600	24,356	25,485	26,323	27,308	28,244	29,209	30,473	3.7
Billings, MT MSA	24,373	25,125	26,309	27,469	28,184	29,117	30,340	31,873	3.9
Great Falls, MT MSA	23,159	23,907	24,657	25,034	26,337	27,494	28,631	29,567	3.6
Missoula, MT MSA	22,847	23,610	24,942	25,672	26,783	27,571	28,055	29,143	3.5
<b>South Dakota</b>	<b>22,262</b>	<b>23,222</b>	<b>24,323</b>	<b>25,151</b>	<b>26,043</b>	<b>26,914</b>	<b>28,031</b>	<b>28,951</b>	<b>3.8</b>
(Non-Metropolitan Portion)	19,768	20,539	21,519	22,259	23,034	23,782	24,889	25,762	3.9
(Metropolitan Portion)	24,891	25,979	27,161	28,060	29,033	29,994	31,132	32,098	3.7
Rapid City, SD MSA	22,166	23,315	24,339	25,486	26,792	27,571	28,498	29,301	4.1
Sioux Falls, SD MSA	25,250	26,278	27,356	28,425	29,474	30,633	31,814	33,038	3.9
<b>United States</b>	<b>31,411</b>	<b>32,774</b>	<b>34,718</b>	<b>35,582</b>	<b>36,150</b>	<b>37,169</b>	<b>38,792</b>	<b>40,146</b>	<b>3.6</b>
(Non-Metropolitan Portion)	23,173	23,867	24,754	25,510	26,292	27,066	28,154	29,078	3.3
(Metropolitan Portion)	32,794	34,252	36,352	37,223	37,761	38,821	40,526	41,942	3.6

**Table 2. Average Wage Per Job in North Dakota by County: 1998 to 2005**

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), Regional Economic Information System (REIS), Table CA34, [www.bea.gov/beat/regional/reis](http://www.bea.gov/beat/regional/reis)

Area	Average Wage Per Job (Dollars)								Annual Average % Change: 1998-2005
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	
North Dakota	22,633	23,373	24,348	25,365	26,269	27,413	28,789	29,818	4.0
Adams	18,529	19,360	19,733	21,353	21,563	22,108	23,173	24,082	3.8
Barnes	18,421	18,860	19,348	19,875	20,817	21,794	23,179	23,941	3.8
Benson	17,698	19,003	21,183	22,557	23,180	23,528	24,988	25,825	5.6
Billings	14,749	15,347	16,739	17,862	17,534	19,694	20,297	22,170	6.1
Bottineau	17,079	17,241	18,444	19,215	19,884	20,763	22,458	24,342	5.2
Bowman	17,245	17,046	18,012	19,933	20,771	22,823	23,261	24,819	5.4
Burke	19,026	19,568	21,086	22,055	22,614	25,310	26,500	28,937	6.2
Burleigh	24,144	24,697	25,731	26,901	27,817	29,430	30,876	31,564	3.9
Cass	25,126	26,215	27,215	28,085	29,143	30,199	31,770	32,703	3.8
Cavalier	19,079	20,150	20,305	21,988	22,613	23,165	24,206	25,748	4.4
Dickey	17,774	18,325	18,839	19,597	20,354	21,363	22,986	23,664	4.2
Divide	14,084	14,776	15,843	17,208	18,788	19,881	20,359	21,739	6.4
Dunn	18,618	18,830	20,105	20,853	20,568	22,166	22,401	23,833	3.6
Eddy	16,996	17,808	18,536	18,168	19,036	19,431	20,355	20,915	3.0
Emmons	16,274	16,731	17,673	18,468	18,780	19,935	21,866	22,576	4.8
Foster	19,087	19,842	21,482	22,140	23,370	24,804	26,144	27,315	5.3
Golden Valley	17,856	16,645	17,336	17,396	17,800	18,297	20,262	21,373	2.7
Grand Forks	22,929	23,595	24,544	25,148	26,192	27,184	28,216	28,967	3.4
Grant	15,983	15,714	16,499	17,369	18,439	19,204	20,514	21,579	4.4
Griggs	18,010	19,047	20,535	20,509	20,669	20,982	22,217	23,199	3.7
Hettinger	16,844	17,822	18,405	19,498	19,752	20,381	21,686	22,221	4.1
Kidder	15,948	16,306	17,502	18,971	19,552	20,649	21,735	22,780	5.2
LaMoure	16,310	16,478	17,711	18,546	19,303	21,022	22,724	24,163	5.8
Logan	14,320	14,916	15,788	17,001	17,938	18,245	18,422	19,968	4.9
McHenry	17,268	18,041	18,440	20,359	20,070	21,018	22,534	24,930	5.5
McIntosh	15,621	15,998	16,997	17,981	18,977	19,253	20,338	20,824	4.2
McKenzie	20,615	21,299	22,449	23,759	23,391	24,717	25,714	27,449	4.2
McLean	23,902	25,199	25,006	26,162	27,243	28,110	30,187	31,880	4.2
Mercer	32,830	33,500	35,050	37,140	36,729	38,326	41,111	41,411	3.4
Morton	22,539	23,205	23,947	25,713	25,914	27,043	27,835	28,811	3.6
Mountrail	18,689	19,792	20,651	21,142	22,654	24,955	27,707	27,977	6.0
Nelson	17,097	17,334	17,409	18,426	20,158	20,377	20,513	21,550	3.4
Oliver	38,425	38,627	40,904	44,456	40,498	41,132	45,084	43,478	2.0
Pembina	24,158	24,914	25,308	26,482	27,162	27,899	28,699	29,963	3.1
Pierce	17,916	17,715	18,003	19,896	20,917	22,983	23,814	24,466	4.6
Ramsey	18,345	18,812	19,465	20,656	21,110	21,923	23,032	24,339	4.1
Ransom	18,860	20,011	21,827	22,905	24,022	24,321	25,319	27,093	5.3
Renville	17,673	17,586	19,024	20,457	20,887	21,452	23,133	24,554	4.9
Richland	22,528	23,432	24,329	25,078	25,868	26,554	27,694	28,970	3.7
Rolette	20,741	20,949	21,726	22,518	22,808	24,259	25,639	26,480	3.6
Sargent	29,763	32,738	33,475	33,231	34,995	38,843	39,573	40,458	4.6
Sheridan	17,495	20,421	19,064	19,549	19,689	21,275	20,984	23,398	4.5
Sioux	21,502	22,609	23,657	25,436	25,751	27,337	29,001	29,523	4.7
Slope	17,022	16,086	18,094	20,236	21,274	21,402	24,582	26,975	7.0
Stark	20,024	20,447	21,144	22,318	23,160	24,227	24,930	26,260	4.0
Steele	20,538	21,036	22,617	23,067	23,008	24,315	26,033	27,755	4.4
Stutsman	21,091	21,507	22,751	23,849	24,567	25,262	26,417	27,435	3.8
Towner	18,995	18,982	19,596	20,073	20,545	20,543	21,839	23,371	3.0
Traill	19,984	20,282	21,622	22,269	22,954	23,839	24,959	26,055	3.9
Walsh	18,845	19,347	19,926	21,121	21,949	21,990	23,552	25,004	4.1
Ward	22,340	23,122	24,024	24,876	26,443	27,312	28,588	29,493	4.1
Wells	17,743	18,596	18,985	20,024	20,809	21,248	22,341	23,740	4.3
Williams	21,131	20,798	22,228	24,438	24,462	26,281	28,234	31,229	5.8

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## Average Wage Per Job Growth in North Dakota Among the Largest in Nation

The average wage per job in North Dakota rose to \$29,818 in 2005, an increase of 4.0 percent per year, on average, since 1998. This average annual growth was the 8<sup>th</sup> largest in the nation behind six states and the District of Columbia.

This month's "Population Bulletin," a monthly publication from the North Dakota State Data Center at North Dakota State University, focuses on average wage data released from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) at [www.bea.gov](http://www.bea.gov). BEA provides average wage per job data for the nation, states, counties, and metropolitan areas throughout the nation. Nationally, wages rose an average of 3.6 percent per year between 1998 and 2005, reaching \$40,146. This rate of growth was higher than inflation which grew 2.6 percent per year on average since 1998.

While North Dakota wages are experiencing consistent and positive growth, the average wage earned in North Dakota still lags behind most states and was 25.7 percent below the national average of \$40,146 in 2005. Three other states had lower averages than North Dakota: Mississippi (\$29,413), Montana (\$29,139), and South Dakota (\$28,951). Connecticut had the highest average wage per job in 2005 (\$51,805), followed by New York (\$51,165) and Massachusetts (\$48,960).

When considering the annual average percent change in average wages for North Dakota counties since 1998, all counties experienced growth of at least 2 percent per year. "What is most promising and exciting about these data is that the five counties in North Dakota with the largest annual average percent growth in average wages since 1998 were Billings, Burke, Divide, Mountrail, and Slope counties, all far western counties which have struggled historically. However, average wages in these five counties increased, on average, at least 6 percent per year since 1998. That's terrific news," said Richard Rathge, Director of the State Data Center.

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