

Personal Finance

Unit 1 · Economics & the Consumer · Lesson 1.1

Career & Salary Cards

Money Simulation - Starter Deck

National: Economics & Consumer Literacy

Teacher resource: print, cut along the rows, and deal one card to each student.

How to Use These Cards

- **Deal them out:** hand each student one card at random, or let students draw blind.
- **It's a starting point:** students keep this same career and salary all course long in the Money Simulation.
- **Monthly gross** is the salary divided by 12 - the money a student 'earns' before taxes each month.
- **Differentiate:** give partners the same card to compare choices, or trade cards after Unit 3 (careers & income).

The Cards

Career	Starting Salary	Monthly Gross	Education / Training Path
Cosmetologist	\$33,000	\$2,750	Cosmetology school + state license
Medical Assistant	\$37,000	\$3,083	1-year certificate
Veterinary Technician	\$39,000	\$3,250	2-year associate degree
Retail Store Manager	\$42,000	\$3,500	High school diploma + experience
Elementary Teacher	\$45,000	\$3,750	4-year degree + teaching license
Welder	\$46,000	\$3,833	Trade certificate
Electrician (Apprentice)	\$48,000	\$4,000	Paid apprenticeship
Diesel Mechanic	\$49,000	\$4,083	Trade certificate

Career	Starting Salary	Monthly Gross	Education / Training Path
HVAC Technician	\$51,000	\$4,250	Trade certificate
Plumber	\$53,000	\$4,417	Paid apprenticeship
Police Officer	\$55,000	\$4,583	Academy + some college
Graphic Designer	\$52,000	\$4,333	4-year degree + portfolio
Accountant	\$61,000	\$5,083	4-year degree
Physical Therapist Asst.	\$63,000	\$5,250	2-year associate degree
Registered Nurse	\$69,000	\$5,750	4-year nursing degree (BSN)
Software Developer	\$78,000	\$6,500	4-year degree or coding bootcamp

Salaries are illustrative national starting figures for classroom use; real pay varies by location, employer, and experience.