



IT PAY\$ TO LOOK AHEAD

Reality Check helps individuals – especially young people – select and modify their own budget choices at the North Carolina state or county level. Try this interactive online tool to learn how to make personal choices about living expenses such as housing, transportation, food, entertainment, utilities, and healthcare. Users will also discover estimated taxes based on their choices.

As a bonus, they can directly link to **Star Jobs** statewide or regional occupations that have median annual incomes that match their **Reality Check** budget!



Housing Costs

- Own or rent?
- Cable?
- Cell phone?
- Utilities?



Transportation

- Type of vehicle?
- Car payment?
- Walk, bike, bus?



Food & Entertainment

- Expensive tastes?
- Thrifty shopper?
- Shows, events?
- Travel?



Other Costs

- Healthcare?
- Student loans?
- Pets?
- Savings?

LEAD, the Labor and Economic Analysis Division, assembles labor market and economic data and transforms it into information you can use every day. Contact Meihui Bodane at mbodane@nccommerce.com or (919) 707-1564 if you have labor market information questions.