

WageScape

Metro Pay Snapshot · What employers are advertising this quarter

CHICAGO · Q2 2026

Chicago fleets advertise 27% above the national benchmark.

\$74.7K vs \$58.6K

The advertised Truck Driver median in Chicago this quarter vs the national BLS figure (May 2025) — a big-metro premium plus projected driver earnings, mileage and sign-on included, baked into advertised offers. Every role inside gets the same check.

Postings analyzed: Apr 1 – Jun 30, 2026 · Government comparison: BLS OEWS May 2025

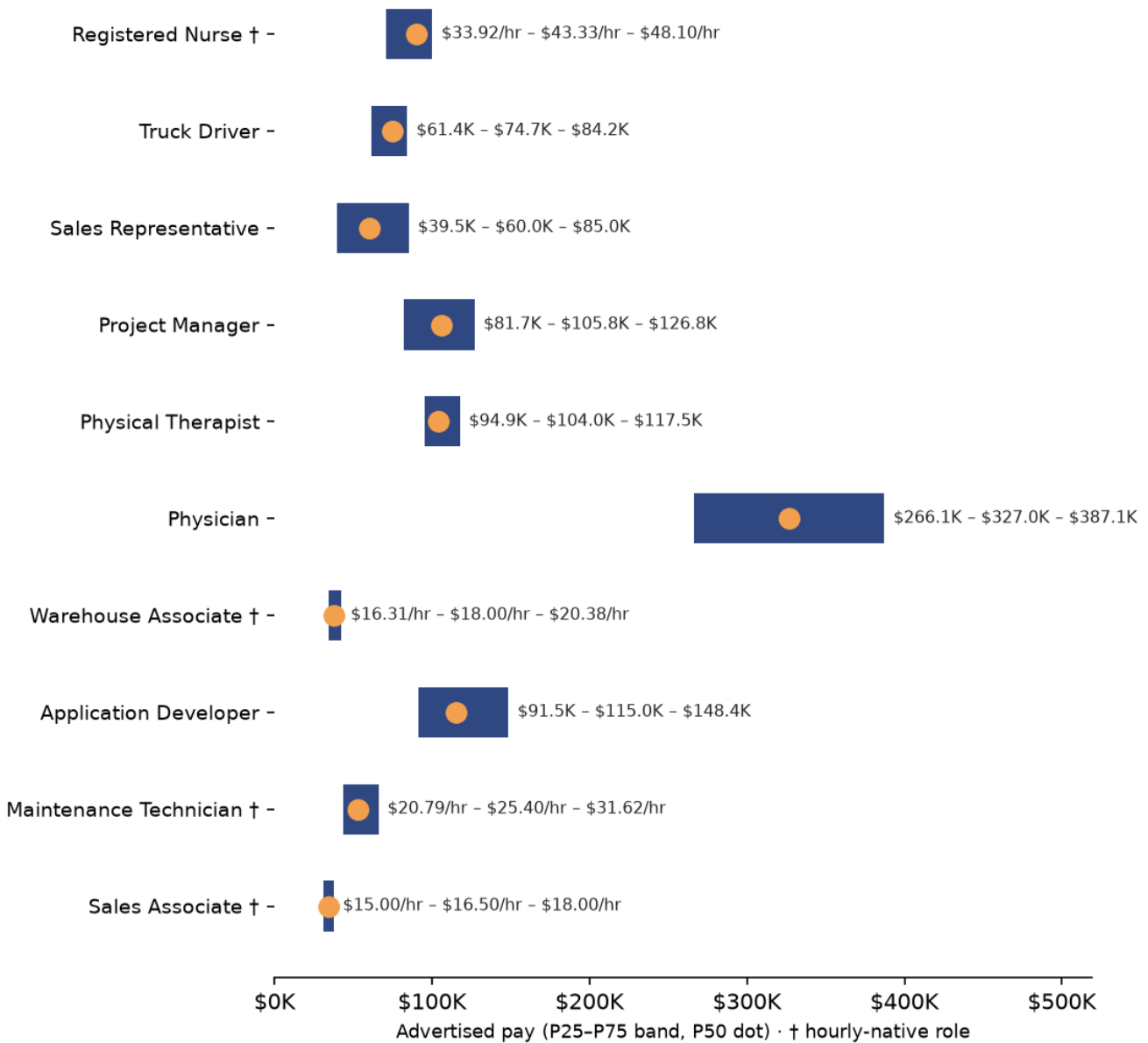
n = 115,513 postings across the 10 highest-volume distinct roles · listing-weighted · WageScape / MarketTrak
Advertised pay = what employers are offering new hires right now — the forward view surveys can't give you.

Any role, any metro — we'll send the band, free → payreports.wagescape.com

CHICAGO · THE PAY SPECTRUM · ADVERTISED, Q2 2026

No role has one market rate — in this metro either

The 10 occupations Chicago is hiring most — P25 / P50 / P75



1. The widest band: Sales Representative — P75 (\$85.0K) pays 2.2× P25 (\$39.5K). Level, scope and structure price this job, not the title. Set bands, not points.

2. The tightest band: Sales Associate (1.2×) — a converged market. Posting outside \$15.00/hr–\$18.00/hr is a deliberate strategy, not noise.

3. Where the anchor skews: Registered Nurse leads the metro at 26,649 postings from ~2,015 hiring companies, and the bottom half of the band is 2.0× as wide as the top — offers above the midpoint compress fast; the real competition is \$43.33/hr–\$48.10/hr.

Notes: One row per occupation: overlapping title conventions (e.g. Truck/CDL/Company Driver) consolidate to the highest-volume title. Any role, any metro — we'll send the band, free → payreports.wagescape.com

The BLS check — we show our work

Every advertised median, next to its government benchmark. Postings measure the hiring market, not the incumbent one: hourly postings quote base starting rates — before differentials, overtime and tenure — and salaried posting cohorts skew junior, so advertised medians typically sit below BLS. Driving is the exception: advertised driver pay quotes projected gross — mileage and sign-on included — which runs above the BLS base-wage benchmark. The gap is information, not error.

Role	Chicago P50	BLS median	Δ	BLS occupation
Registered Nurse †	\$43.33/hr	\$45.00/hr	-3.7%	Registered nurses
Truck Driver	\$74.7K	\$58.6K	+27.5%	Heavy/tractor-trailer drivers
Sales Representative	\$60.0K	\$64.2K	-6.5%	Sales representatives, services
Project Manager	\$105.8K	—		no single SOC equivalent
Physical Therapist	\$104.0K	\$101.0K	+3.0%	Physical therapists
Physician	\$327.0K	\$238.4K	+37.2%	Family medicine; specialists high
Warehouse Associate †	\$18.00/hr	\$18.12/hr	-0.7%	Hand laborers/material movers *
Application Developer	\$115.0K	\$133.1K	-13.6%	Software developers
Maintenance Technician †	\$25.40/hr	\$23.38/hr	+8.6%	Maintenance & repair, general
Sales Associate †	\$16.50/hr	\$16.62/hr	-0.7%	Retail salespersons

BLS figures: OEWS national medians, May 2025 release (bls.gov); * = May 2024 release — our latest verified figure for that occupation. Metro-level OEWS comparisons ship in the full edition; BLS medians here are national, and large metros typically run above the national market. † hourly-native role, both figures per hour. Deltas computed from the printed values.

Your roles aren’t on this list?

Request any role in any metro — e.g. “Pharmacy Technician, Des Moines” — and we’ll send the advertised P25/P50/P75 band, checked against BLS, within 2 business days. Free for HR and comp teams. It’s the same engine behind our custom reports: your roles × your markets, built on demand.

Request your band, free → payreports.wagescape.com

Methodology

Source: WageScape / MarketTrak — advertised-posting data from public job postings, April 1–June 30, 2026 (single quarter; no period-over-period claims). Sample: 115,513 postings across the metro’s 10 highest-volume distinct roles (vague titles such as “Specialist” or “Manager” excluded). Every role is a P25/P50/P75 band, never a lone median; hourly-native roles quoted per hour; rows publish only at n≥500. Pay levels are modeled from postings. Aggregates only; every figure reproduces from a saved, dated query snapshot.