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By DIANE STAFFORD
Columnist

Average starting salary offers to 2004 college graduates generally are 1 percent to 8 percent higher than last year, depending on the job.

The **National Association of Colleges and Employers** surveyed offers to graduates. Some averages: \$38,188 for business administration grads, \$41,110 in accounting, **\$40,906 in economics/finance**, \$35,321 in marketing, \$49,691 in computer science, \$52,819 in chemical engineering, \$42,053 in civil engineering.

For liberal arts grads, the average salary offer was \$30,152.