

HICKORY REGION Top 10 Star Jobs

Top careers with high wages and employment growth by education requirements

Advanced Degree	Median Hourly Wage	Median Annual Wage
★ Physical Therapists	\$41.11	\$85,511
★ Lawyers	\$33.19	\$69,028
★ Pharmacists	\$62.93	\$130,899
★ Health Specialties Teachers, Postsecondary	N/A	\$50,580
★ Speech-Language Pathologists	\$42.08	\$87,529
★ Healthcare Social Workers	\$20.75	\$43,166
★ Nurse Practitioners	\$45.95	\$95,574
★ Physician Assistants	\$46.05	\$95,777
★ Mental Health Counselors	\$21.43	\$44,583
★ Occupational Therapists	\$34.85	\$72,485

All wage information (except where noted) is Regional Median Hourly and Annual Wage data which was calculated based on 2016 release of the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) program of the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The OES program produces employment and wage estimates annually for more than 800 occupations for the U.S., individual states, and metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas; National occupational estimates for specific industries are also available.

Note: Selected occupations for each education/experience category are based on the Star Jobs Methodology. Education categories in this brochure represent the minimum level of education required for entry according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Actual market conditions may require additional education and training.

What are Star Jobs?

North Carolina's 5-Star Jobs represent occupations with the greatest projected employment potential through 2024. Occupations were rated from 1-5 stars based on wages, projected growth rates, and projected job openings. For a complete list of Star Jobs and explanation of the rating process, visit www.nccommerce.com/lead/data-tools/star-jobs



NORTH CAROLINA
Department of Commerce
Labor & Economic Analysis

lead@nccommerce.com | www.nccommerce.com/lead | (919)707-1500

HICKORY REGION
STAR JOBS
TOP 10 BY EDUCATION
2017

Labor & Economic Analysis
COMMERCE

HICKORY REGION Top 10 Star Jobs

Top careers with high wages & employment growth by education requirements

High School & Work Experience

		Median Hourly Wage	Median Annual Wage
★	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$21.27	\$44,237
★	First-Line Supervisors of Office & Admin. Support Workers	\$23.34	\$48,543
★	Computer-Controlled Machine Tool Operators, Metal & Plastic	\$16.97	\$35,288
★	First-Line Supervisors of Mechanics, Installers & Repairers	\$26.90	\$55,946
★	Electricians	\$20.85	\$43,358
★	First-Line Supervisors of Constr. Trades & Extraction Workers	\$27.24	\$56,659
★	Food Service Managers	\$25.80	\$53,670
★	Electrical Power-Line Installers & Repairers	\$27.90	\$58,030
★	Customer Service Representatives	\$14.14	\$29,419
★	Maintenance & Repair Workers, General	\$18.16	\$37,770

Associate Degree

		Median Hourly Wage	Median Annual Wage
★	Medical & Clinical Laboratory Technicians	\$17.33	\$36,051
★	Physical Therapist Assistants	\$27.67	\$57,552
★	Respiratory Therapists	\$24.89	\$51,762
★	Dental Hygienists	\$32.07	\$66,706
★	Web Developers	\$23.17	\$48,183
★	Occupational Therapy Assistants	\$29.30	\$60,941
★	Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	\$26.69	\$55,519
★	Paralegals & Legal Assistants	\$17.59	\$36,594
★	Radiologic Technologists	\$25.83	\$53,731
★	Computer Network Support Specialists	\$19.63	\$40,829

Postsecondary Training

		Median Hourly Wage	Median Annual Wage
★	Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	\$20.08	\$41,766
★	Computer User Support Specialists	\$20.48	\$42,606
★	Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$18.73	\$38,959
★	Medical Assistants	\$13.67	\$28,427
★	Emergency Medical Technicians & Paramedics	\$13.75	\$28,597
★	Dental Assistants	\$17.14	\$35,653
★	Heating, A/C & Refrigeration Mechanics & Installers	\$17.26	\$35,898
★	Medical Records & Health Information Technicians	\$13.99	\$29,093
★	Massage Therapists	\$17.53	\$36,462
★	First-Line Supervisors of Fire Fighting & Prevention Workers	\$22.48	\$46,769

Bachelor's Degree

		Median Hourly Wage	Median Annual Wage
★	Registered Nurses	\$26.52	\$55,159
★	General & Operations Managers	\$47.40	\$98,589
★	Accountants & Auditors	\$30.64	\$63,726
★	Software Developers, Applications	\$37.25	\$77,472
★	Financial Managers	\$47.45	\$98,696
★	Computer Systems Analysts	\$36.69	\$76,305
★	Market Research Analysts & Marketing Specialists	\$25.94	\$53,949
★	Management Analysts	\$35.38	\$73,584
★	Medical & Health Services Managers	\$42.84	\$89,116
★	Sales Managers	\$56.97	\$118,498