

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
★ Healthcare Social Workers	\$22.70	\$47,221
★ Health Specialties Teachers, Postsecondary	N/A	\$49,969
★ Pharmacists	\$66.77	\$138,884
★ Physical Therapists	\$41.68	\$86,691
★ Physician Assistants	\$50.46	\$104,955
★ Mental Health & Substance Abuse Social Workers	\$24.05	\$50,033
★ Nurse Practitioners	\$47.74	\$99,289
★ Clinical, Counseling, & School Psychologists	\$29.75	\$61,888
★ Speech-Language Pathologists	\$34.09	\$70,901
★ Occupational Therapists	\$40.13	\$83,463

All wage information (except where noted) is Regional Median Hourly and Annual Wage data which was calculated based on 2019 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 2026. 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/data-tools-reports/labor-market-data-tools/employment-projections#star-jobs



For more information on North Carolina careers go to:

NCCareers.org [@CareersinNC](https://twitter.com/CareersinNC) lead@nccommerce.com



NC DEPARTMENT
of COMMERCE
LABOR & ECONOMIC
ANALYSIS

HICKORY REGION STAR JOBS TOP 10 BY EDUCATION 2019



Alexander | Burke | Caldwell
Catawba | McDowell

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High School and Work Experience		Median Hourly Wage	Median Annual Wage
★	Sales Reps., Wholesale & Mfg., Exc. Tech. & Scientific Products	\$28.23	\$58,718
★	Managers of Mechanics, Installers, & Repairers	\$28.86	\$60,033
★	Managers of Construction Trades & Extraction Workers	\$25.46	\$52,956
★	Food Service Managers	\$25.59	\$53,231
★	Self-Enrichment Education Teachers	\$14.06	\$29,244
★	Insurance Sales Agents	\$21.41	\$44,534
★	Managers of Personal Service Workers	\$18.75	\$39,000
★	Electrical Power-Line Installers & Repairers	\$31.12	\$64,727
★	Managers of Landscaping & Groundskeeping Workers	\$27.44	\$57,069
★	Customer Service Reps.	\$14.60	\$30,361

Postsecondary Training		Median Hourly Wage	Median Annual Wage
★	Computer User Support Specialists	\$19.92	\$41,431
★	Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$20.57	\$42,785
★	Automotive Service Techs & Mechanics	\$18.20	\$37,848
★	Medical Assistants	\$14.24	\$29,613
★	Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	\$21.72	\$45,179
★	HVAC & Refrigeration Mechanics & Installers	\$19.87	\$41,332
★	Dental Assistants	\$16.34	\$33,996
★	Emergency Medical Techs & Paramedics	\$15.46	\$32,162
★	Medical Records & Health Info Techs	\$15.32	\$31,861
★	Surgical Technologists	\$18.71	\$38,925

Associate Degree		Median Hourly Wage	Median Annual Wage
★	Paralegals & Legal Assistants	\$18.77	\$39,040
★	Physical Therapist Assistants	\$27.74	\$57,691
★	Radiologic Technologists	\$26.10	\$54,297
★	Dental Hygienists	\$32.89	\$68,421
★	Respiratory Therapists	\$25.96	\$53,989
★	Occupational Therapy Assistants	\$29.67	\$61,710
★	Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	\$30.77	\$64,010
★	Clinical Lab Technologists & Techs	\$20.96	\$43,605
★	Veterinary Technologists & Techs	\$16.22	\$33,744
★	Web Developers	\$23.61	\$49,112

Bachelor's Degree		Median Hourly Wage	Median Annual Wage
★	Registered Nurses	\$28.31	\$58,888
★	General & Operations Managers	\$49.88	\$103,751
★	Accountants & Auditors	\$30.69	\$63,844
★	Child, Family, & School Social Workers	\$21.09	\$43,864
★	Industrial Engineers	\$34.63	\$72,037
★	Market Research Analysts & Marketing Specialists	\$31.22	\$64,940
★	Financial Managers	\$53.69	\$111,676
★	Chemists	\$28.35	\$58,976
★	Medical & Health Services Managers	\$47.29	\$98,362
★	Mechanical Engineers	\$38.96	\$81,034