

## What are Star Jobs?

North Carolina's 5-Star Jobs represent occupations with the greatest projected employment potential through 2030. Occupations were rated from 1-5 stars based on wages, projected growth rates, and projected job openings.

### ASHEVILLE REGION



Buncombe | Henderson | Madison  
Polk | Rutherford | Transylvania



For a complete list of Star Jobs and explanation of the rating process, scan the QR code or visit: [www.commerce.nc.gov/data-tools-reports/labor-market-data-tools/employment-projections#StarJobs-274](http://www.commerce.nc.gov/data-tools-reports/labor-market-data-tools/employment-projections#StarJobs-274)

### Advanced Degree

#### MEDIAN WAGE

		Hourly	Annual
★	Nurse Anesthetists	\$85.59	\$178,034
★	Pharmacists	\$62.60	\$130,208
★	Physician Assistants	\$57.69	\$120,002
★	Lawyers	\$56.28	\$117,066
★	Nurse Practitioners	\$50.45	\$104,930
★	Veterinarians	\$48.03	\$99,898
★	Occupational Therapists	\$40.69	\$84,635
★	Physical Therapists	\$39.58	\$82,325
★	Health Specialties Teachers, Postsecondary	SALARY POSITION	\$76,113
★	Healthcare Social Workers	\$27.58	\$57,364

All wages are based on LEAD analysis of data of Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) 2022 Data released in May 2023.

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Top 10 careers with high wages and employment growth, grouped by education requirements.

## High School & Work Experience

	MEDIAN WAGE	
	Hourly	Annual
★ 5 Food Service Managers	\$29.77	\$61,930
★ 5 First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers	\$29.64	\$61,654
★ 5 Chefs and Head Cooks	\$26.27	\$54,648
★ 5 Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$26.25	\$54,605
★ 5 Electricians	\$23.11	\$48,060
★ 4 Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers	\$43.26	\$89,981
★ 4 Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers	\$34.83	\$72,446
★ 4 First-Line Supervisors of Mechanics, Installers, and Repairers	\$29.79	\$61,967
★ 4 Sales Representatives of Services, Except Advertising, Insurance, Financial Services, and Travel	\$27.85	\$57,918
★ 4 Crane and Tower Operators	\$26.62	\$55,377

## Postsecondary Training

	MEDIAN WAGE	
	Hourly	Annual
★ 5 Commercial Pilots	SALARY POSITION	\$102,780
★ 5 Skincare Specialists	\$27.25	\$56,683
★ 5 Massage Therapists	\$23.09	\$48,021
★ 5 Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	\$22.88	\$47,597
★ 4 Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Programmers	\$28.20	\$58,654
★ 4 Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	\$26.99	\$56,139
★ 4 Motorcycle Mechanics	\$23.78	\$49,454
★ 4 First-Line Supervisors of Firefighting and Prevention Workers	\$23.75	\$49,408
★ 4 Computer User Support Specialists	\$22.84	\$47,507
★ 4 Dental Assistants	\$22.63	\$47,065

## Associate's Degree

	MEDIAN WAGE	
	Hourly	Annual
★ 5 Dental Hygienists	\$37.44	\$77,879
★ 5 Registered Nurses	\$36.61	\$76,151
★ 5 Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	\$36.41	\$75,734
★ 5 Occupational Therapy Assistants	\$31.71	\$65,950
★ 5 Respiratory Therapists	\$30.95	\$64,371
★ 5 Radiologic Technologists and Technicians	\$29.11	\$60,542
★ 5 Physical Therapist Assistants	\$29.06	\$60,443
★ 5 Paralegals and Legal Assistants	\$25.07	\$52,146
★ 4 Civil Engineering Technologists and Technicians	\$26.60	\$55,328
★ 4 Architectural and Civil Drafters	\$26.27	\$54,645

## Bachelor's Degree

	MEDIAN WAGE	
	Hourly	Annual
★ 5 Financial Managers	\$59.76	\$124,303
★ 5 Computer and Information Systems Managers	\$58.65	\$121,991
★ 5 Software Developers	\$50.33	\$104,693
★ 5 Marketing Managers	\$48.77	\$101,446
★ 5 Medical and Health Services Managers	\$48.43	\$100,744
★ 5 Sales Managers	\$44.90	\$93,382
★ 5 Construction Managers	\$43.21	\$89,877
★ 5 Information Security Analysts	\$41.81	\$86,974
★ 5 Personal Financial Advisors	\$41.80	\$86,947
★ 5 Management Analysts	\$40.11	\$83,424

*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.*