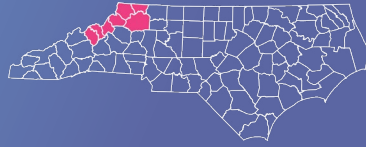


What are Star Jobs?

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.

HIGH COUNTRY BOONE-WILKESBORO REGION



Alleghany | Ashe | Avery | Mitchell
Watauga | Wilkes | Yancey



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

Advanced Degree

		MEDIAN WAGE	
		Hourly	Annual
★	Business Teachers, Postsecondary	SALARY POSITION	\$109,432
★	Physician Assistants	\$51.65	\$107,435
★	Nurse Practitioners	\$47.23	\$98,247
★	Veterinarians	\$46.03	\$95,746
★	Physical Therapists	\$44.83	\$93,244
★	Occupational Therapists	\$42.08	\$87,528
★	Psychology Teachers, Postsecondary	SALARY POSITION	\$86,056
★	Education Administrators, Postsecondary	\$38.39	\$79,856
★	Biological Science Teachers, Postsecondary	SALARY POSITION	\$66,586
★	Education Teachers, Postsecondary	SALARY POSITION	\$65,870

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	First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	\$29.60	\$61,564
★5	First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers	\$29.26	\$60,861
★5	Food Service Managers	\$28.88	\$60,078
★5	Chefs and Head Cooks	\$28.48	\$59,237
★5	Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products	\$25.70	\$53,463
★5	Telecommunications Line Installers and Repairers	\$24.54	\$51,047
★5	Electricians	\$22.25	\$46,280
★5	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$20.84	\$43,340
★4	Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers	\$35.42	\$73,676
★4	Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers	\$32.51	\$67,624

Postsecondary Training

MEDIAN WAGE

Hourly Annual

★5	Telecommunications Equipment Installers and Repairers, Except Line Installers	\$24.69	\$51,359
★5	Massage Therapists	\$31.07	\$64,622
★4	Computer User Support Specialists	\$25.31	\$52,635
★4	Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	\$21.91	\$45,578
★4	Dental Assistants	\$21.16	\$44,004
★4	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$21.08	\$43,855
★4	Medical Assistants	\$17.39	\$36,173
★3	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	\$24.76	\$51,497
★3	Library Technicians	\$23.76	\$49,424
★3	Medical Records Specialists	\$22.74	\$47,298

Associate's Degree

MEDIAN WAGE

Hourly Annual

★5	Dental Hygienists	\$36.88	\$76,704
★5	Medical Equipment Repairers	\$32.66	\$67,943
★5	Physical Therapist Assistants	\$31.70	\$65,940
★5	Registered Nurses	\$31.62	\$65,777
★5	Occupational Therapy Assistants	\$30.76	\$63,973
★4	Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	\$31.08	\$64,648
★4	Respiratory Therapists	\$28.40	\$59,082
★4	Paralegals and Legal Assistants	\$19.21	\$39,957
★4	Veterinary Technologists and Technicians	\$16.23	\$33,764
★3	Computer Network Support Specialists	\$29.50	\$61,364

Bachelor's Degree

MEDIAN WAGE

Hourly Annual

★5	Marketing Managers	\$50.66	\$105,363
★5	Financial Managers	\$50.09	\$104,179
★5	Computer and Information Systems Managers	\$49.53	\$103,030
★5	Construction Managers	\$48.26	\$100,370
★5	Software Developers	\$47.66	\$99,138
★5	Management Analysts	\$47.17	\$98,121
★5	Information Security Analysts	\$45.41	\$94,443
★5	Medical and Health Services Managers	\$44.51	\$92,579
★5	Personal Financial Advisors	\$42.60	\$88,618
★5	Web and Digital Interface Designers	\$40.22	\$83,657

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.