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.

RALEIGH-DURHAM REGION



Chatham | Durham | Franklin | Granville Harnett | Johnston | Lee | Orange Person | Vance | Wake | Warren



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 Hourly	MEDIAN WAGE Hourly Annual	
1	Nurse Anesthetists	\$98.89	\$205,699	
\$	Dentists, General	\$97.25	\$202,289	
\$	Pharmacists	\$64.89	\$134,979	
\$	Statisticians	\$59.17	\$123,064	
5	Lawyers	\$58.21	\$121,082	
1	Nurse Practitioners	\$55.92	\$116,308	
1	Physician Assistants	\$55.79	\$116,035	
5	Engineering Teachers, Postsecondary	SALARY POSITION	\$108,456	
1	Education Administrators, Postsecondary	\$49.53	\$103,027	
1	Biochemists and Biophysicists	\$48.72	\$101,330	

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	
			Annual
\$	Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers	\$48.45	\$100,777
\$	Property, Real Estate, and Community Association Managers	\$40.60	\$84,448
1	First-Line Supervisors of Police and Detectives	\$36.71	\$76,361
\$	Sales Representatives of Services, Except Advertising, Insurance, Financial Services, and Travel	\$32.94	\$68,523
1	First-Line Supervisors of Mechanics, Installers, and Repairers	\$32.79	\$68,205
食	First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers	\$31.01	\$64,506
\$	Food Service Managers	\$29.63	\$61,621
1	Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products	\$29.19	\$60,715
5	Insurance Sales Agents	\$28.73	\$59,764
1	Chefs and Head Cooks	\$27.40	\$56,993

Postsecondary Training		MEDIAN WAGE Hourly Annual	
5	Telecommunications Equipment Installers and Repairers, Except Line Installers	\$29.21	\$60,764
1	Computer User Support Specialists	\$29.04	\$60,412
\$	Massage Therapists	\$27.94	\$58,109
5	Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	\$23.47	\$48,815
4	Commercial Pilots	SALARY POSITION	\$107,400
4	Aircraft Mechanics and Service Technicians	\$36.96	\$76,877
4	Skincare Specialists	\$31.67	\$65,878
4	Electrical and Electronics Repairers, Commercial and Industrial Equipment	\$31.51	\$65,541
4	Fire Inspectors and Investigators	\$31.46	\$65,438
4	First-Line Supervisors of Firefighting and Prevention Workers	\$30.41	\$63,251

Associate's Degree		MEDIAN WAGE	
, ,	Associate 3 Degree		Annual
5	Computer Network Support Specialists	\$44.50	\$92,563
\$	Dental Hygienists	\$38.57	\$80,227
\$	Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	\$38.04	\$79,130
1	Registered Nurses	\$36.90	\$76,743
\$	Occupational Therapy Assistants	\$33.73	\$70,152
\$	Respiratory Therapists	\$31.46	\$65,439
1	Medical Equipment Repairers	\$31.09	\$64,677
1	Physical Therapist Assistants	\$30.87	\$64,208
1	Radiologic Technologists and Technicians	\$30.52	\$63,487
5	Paralegals and Legal Assistants	\$27.10	\$56,358

Bachelor's Degree		MEDIAN WAGE Hourly Annual	
1	Natural Sciences Managers	\$78.42	\$163,110
1	Computer and Information Systems Managers	\$76.72	\$159,571
5	Marketing Managers	\$66.33	\$137,973
1	Financial Managers	\$65.86	\$136,990
1	Architectural and Engineering Managers	\$65.59	\$136,433
1	Software Developers	\$62.27	\$129,522
1	Database Architects	\$57.50	\$119,605
1	Data Scientists	\$56.48	\$117,484
1	Information Security Analysts	\$52.87	\$109,971
1	Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Technical and Scientific Products	\$52.13	\$108,429