

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.

WINSTON-SALEM REGION



Davidson | Davie | Forsyth
Stokes | Surry | Yadkin



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
★ Nurse Anesthetists	\$102.86	\$213,954
★ Health Specialties Teachers, Postsecondary	SALARY POSITION	\$173,632
★ Lawyers	\$70.10	\$145,801
★ Nurse Practitioners	\$62.70	\$130,411
★ Pharmacists	\$62.43	\$129,844
★ Physician Assistants	\$62.23	\$129,449
★ Veterinarians	\$50.74	\$105,531
★ Physical Therapists	\$47.19	\$98,164
★ Nursing Instructors and Teachers, Postsecondary	SALARY POSITION	\$66,105
★ Healthcare Social Workers	\$27.69	\$57,596

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	Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers	\$46.09	\$95,857
★5	First-Line Supervisors of Mechanics, Installers, and Repairers	\$34.17	\$71,069
★5	Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers	\$30.97	\$64,421
★5	First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	\$30.03	\$62,461
★5	Food Service Managers	\$29.19	\$60,725
★5	First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers	\$29.11	\$60,549
★5	Real Estate Sales Agents	\$29.00	\$60,320
★5	Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products	\$26.69	\$55,514
★5	Chefs and Head Cooks	\$26.69	\$55,512
★5	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$23.99	\$49,908

Postsecondary Training

MEDIAN WAGE

Hourly Annual

★5	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	\$24.75	\$51,480
★5	Massage Therapists	\$26.41	\$54,939
★4	Commercial Pilots	SALARY POSITION	\$126,391
★4	Aircraft Mechanics and Service Technicians	\$30.40	\$63,224
★4	Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Programmers	\$29.17	\$60,679
★4	Medical Records Specialists	\$24.40	\$50,755
★4	Computer User Support Specialists	\$23.74	\$49,387
★4	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$23.29	\$48,446
★4	Surgical Technologists	\$23.11	\$48,077
★4	Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	\$22.71	\$47,241

Associate's Degree

MEDIAN WAGE

Hourly Annual

★5	Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	\$38.88	\$80,866
★5	Registered Nurses	\$37.56	\$78,116
★5	Respiratory Therapists	\$31.91	\$66,372
★5	Occupational Therapy Assistants	\$31.60	\$65,722
★5	Radiologic Technologists and Technicians	\$30.93	\$64,335
★5	Physical Therapist Assistants	\$29.70	\$61,767
★5	Paralegals and Legal Assistants	\$24.51	\$50,977
★4	Computer Network Support Specialists	\$40.30	\$83,820
★4	Industrial Engineering Technologists and Technicians	\$31.21	\$64,923
★4	Avionics Technicians	\$30.85	\$64,160

Bachelor's Degree

MEDIAN WAGE

Hourly Annual

★5	Architectural and Engineering Managers	\$65.56	\$136,362
★5	Financial Managers	\$64.94	\$135,083
★5	Computer and Information Systems Managers	\$63.97	\$133,057
★5	Marketing Managers	\$63.45	\$131,983
★5	Purchasing Managers	\$58.44	\$121,559
★5	Information Security Analysts	\$55.81	\$116,076
★5	Software Developers	\$55.14	\$114,685
★5	Human Resources Managers	\$53.75	\$111,792
★5	Data Scientists	\$49.81	\$103,599
★5	Personal Financial Advisors	\$49.81	\$103,599

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.