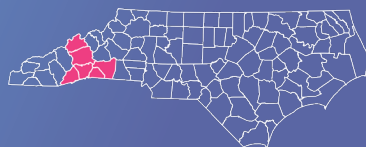


What are Star Jobs?

North Carolina's 5-Star Jobs represent occupations with the greatest projected employment potential through 2034. 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/star-jobs

Advanced Degree

		MEDIAN WAGE	
		Hourly	Annual
★5	Lawyers	\$49.56	\$103,092
★5	Nurse Practitioners	\$61.19	\$127,265
★5	Pharmacists	\$65.53	\$136,306
★5	Kindergarten through Secondary Education Administrators	SALARY POSITION	\$80,251
★5	Veterinarians	\$60.77	\$126,402
★5	Nurse Midwives	\$50.87	\$105,806
★5	Psychiatrists	\$85.73	\$178,311
★4	Mental Health and Substance Abuse Social Workers	\$28.85	\$60,012
★4	Urban and Regional Planners	\$37.47	\$77,945
★4	School Psychologists	\$30.78	\$64,019

All wages are based on LEAD analysis of data of Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) 2025 Data released in June 2026.

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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 Construction Trades and Extraction Workers	\$35.03	\$72,861
★5	Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers	\$39.43	\$82,014
★5	Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers	\$47.90	\$99,634
★5	Mobile Heavy Equipment Mechanics	\$30.86	\$64,196
★4	Wholesale and Manufacturing Sales Representatives	\$31.02	\$64,514
★4	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$31.35	\$65,201
★4	Insurance Sales Agents	\$23.94	\$49,797
★4	Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	\$28.00	\$58,240
★4	Chefs and Head Cooks	\$28.60	\$59,480
★4	Lodging Managers	\$33.06	\$68,766

Postsecondary Training**MEDIAN WAGE**
Hourly Annual

★5	Powerhouse, Substation, and Relay Electrical and Electronics Repairers	\$50.67	\$105,397
★4	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	\$31.16	\$64,817
★4	Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	\$27.49	\$57,171
★4	Surgical Technologists	\$31.09	\$64,663
★4	Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Programmers	\$30.88	\$64,239
★4	Fire Inspectors and Investigators	\$34.55	\$71,862
★3	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$24.73	\$51,448
★3	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	\$22.65	\$47,114
★3	Dental Assistants	\$26.95	\$56,055
★3	Computer User Support Specialists	\$27.68	\$57,569

Associate's Degree**MEDIAN WAGE**
Hourly Annual

★5	Registered Nurses	\$39.22	\$81,586
★5	Dental Hygienists	\$48.26	\$100,373
★5	Architectural and Civil Drafters	\$28.63	\$59,557
★4	Electrical and Electronic Engineering Technologists and Technicians	\$37.91	\$78,853
★4	Civil Engineering Technologists and Technicians	\$29.26	\$60,851
★4	Health Information Technologists and Medical Registrars	\$22.77	\$47,370
★4	Computer Network Support Specialists	\$48.87	\$101,644
★3	Paralegals and Legal Assistants	\$27.57	\$57,344
★3	Veterinary Technologists and Technicians	\$21.80	\$45,346
★3	Forest and Conservation Technicians	\$27.69	\$57,599

Bachelor's Degree**MEDIAN WAGE**
Hourly Annual

★5	General and Operations Managers	\$43.48	\$90,442
★5	Accountants and Auditors	\$38.60	\$80,296
★5	Construction Managers	\$48.43	\$100,731
★5	Human Resources Specialists	\$32.86	\$68,355
★5	Project Management Specialists	\$46.19	\$96,085
★5	Buyers and Purchasing Agents	\$32.68	\$67,969
★5	Sales Managers	\$57.13	\$118,826
★5	Civil Engineers	\$47.45	\$98,694
★5	Personal Financial Advisors	\$46.72	\$97,177
★5	Social and Community Service Managers	\$38.06	\$79,158

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.