

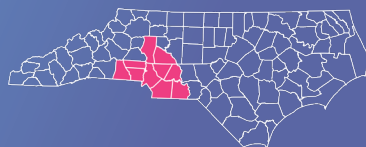
What are Star Jobs?

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.



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

CHARLOTTE REGION



Anson | Cabarrus | Cleveland | Gaston
Iredell | Lincoln | Mecklenburg
Rowan | Stanley | Union

Advanced Degree

		MEDIAN WAGE	
		Hourly	Annual
★	Lawyers	\$79.15	\$164,626
★	Physician Assistants	\$63.76	\$132,620
★	Pharmacists	\$72.40	\$150,584
★	Physical Therapists	\$48.46	\$100,788
★	Speech-Language Pathologists	\$43.73	\$90,956
★	Postsecondary Education Administrators	\$41.35	\$86,007
★	Urban and Regional Planners	\$40.95	\$85,172
★	Statisticians	\$64.58	\$134,320
★	Computer and Information Research Scientists	\$49.34	\$102,629
★	Nurse Midwives	\$66.14	\$137,572

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	\$37.01	\$76,980
★5	First-Line Supervisors of Mechanics, Installers, and Repairers	\$38.29	\$79,649
★5	Property, Real Estate, and Community Association Managers	\$34.91	\$72,610
★5	Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers	\$38.33	\$79,734
★5	Private Detectives and Investigators	\$35.82	\$74,509
★4	Wholesale and Manufacturing Sales Representatives	\$34.46	\$71,687
★4	Electricians	\$28.26	\$58,774
★4	Insurance Sales Agents	\$29.97	\$62,346
★4	Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers	\$30.38	\$63,195
★4	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$31.50	\$65,530

Postsecondary Training

MEDIAN WAGE

Hourly Annual

★5	Powerhouse, Substation, and Relay Electrical and Electronics Repairers	\$50.62	\$105,300
★4	Computer User Support Specialists	\$29.27	\$60,872
★4	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	\$31.30	\$65,094
★4	Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	\$28.85	\$60,006
★4	Aircraft Mechanics and Service Technicians	\$37.78	\$78,583
★4	Paramedics	\$29.45	\$61,253
★4	First-Line Supervisors of Firefighting and Prevention Workers	\$30.23	\$62,879
★4	Commercial and Industrial Equipment Electrical and Electronics Repairers	\$35.99	\$74,857
★3	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$26.42	\$54,954
★3	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	\$25.78	\$53,613

Associate's Degree

MEDIAN WAGE

Hourly Annual

★5	Registered Nurses	\$43.57	\$90,619
★5	Dental Hygienists	\$47.30	\$98,393
★5	Respiratory Therapists	\$39.78	\$82,736
★5	Occupational Therapy Assistants	\$34.97	\$72,731
★4	Computer Network Support Specialists	\$35.95	\$74,772
★4	Architectural and Civil Drafters	\$31.15	\$64,787
★4	Industrial Engineering Technologists and Technicians	\$34.91	\$72,620
★4	Calibration Technologists and Technicians	\$31.91	\$66,365
★3	Paralegals and Legal Assistants	\$29.62	\$61,608
★3	Mechanical Drafters	\$29.43	\$61,214

Bachelor's Degree

MEDIAN WAGE

Hourly Annual

★5	General and Operations Managers	\$53.51	\$111,302
★5	Accountants and Auditors	\$44.73	\$93,040
★5	Securities, Commodities, and Financial Services Sales Agents	\$39.12	\$81,368
★5	Project Management Specialists	\$50.58	\$105,199
★5	Computer Systems Analysts	\$53.45	\$111,174
★5	Market Research Analysts and Marketing Specialists	\$40.06	\$83,333
★5	Human Resources Specialists	\$37.78	\$78,584
★5	Data Scientists	\$64.55	\$134,267
★5	Buyers and Purchasing Agents	\$37.27	\$77,514
★5	Medical and Health Services Managers	\$53.61	\$111,504

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.