

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.

GOLDSBORO-KINSTON REGION



Duplin | Greene | Lenoir | Wayne



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	Kindergarten through Secondary Education Administrators	SALARY POSITION	\$77,385
★5	Pharmacists	\$65.78	\$136,827
★5	Nurse Practitioners	\$56.86	\$118,274
★5	Physical Therapists	\$47.54	\$98,877
★5	Physician Assistants	\$60.89	\$126,656
★5	Veterinarians	\$58.91	\$122,535
★4	Educational, Guidance, and Career Counselors and Advisors	\$27.20	\$56,579
★4	Librarians and Media Collections Specialists	\$26.59	\$55,305
★4	Urban and Regional Planners	\$37.40	\$77,802
★3	Rehabilitation Counselors	\$20.44	\$42,514

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

This workforce product was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The product was created by the recipient and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership. This product is copyrighted by the institution that created it. Internal use by an organization and/or personal use by an individual for non-commercial purposes is permissible. All other uses require the prior authorization of the copyright owner.

NCcareers.org

DREAM IT. PLAN IT. BE IT.
NCcareers.org



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 Mechanics, Installers, and Repairers	\$38.62	\$80,331
★5	Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers	\$37.56	\$78,122
★5	Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers	\$45.40	\$94,432
★5	Chefs and Head Cooks	\$28.13	\$58,501
★4	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$28.94	\$60,195
★4	Electricians	\$24.85	\$51,682
★4	Insurance Sales Agents	\$24.28	\$50,502
★4	Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists	\$26.92	\$55,990
★4	Property, Real Estate, and Community Association Managers	\$24.85	\$51,679
★4	Construction and Building Inspectors	\$28.41	\$59,094

Postsecondary Training

MEDIAN WAGE

Hourly Annual

★5	Commercial Pilots	SALARY POSITION	\$100,076
★5	Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Programmers	\$33.79	\$70,287
★4	First-Line Supervisors of Firefighting and Prevention Workers	\$26.72	\$55,574
★4	Powerhouse, Substation, and Relay Electrical and Electronics Repairers	\$48.42	\$100,721
★3	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$23.32	\$48,506
★3	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	\$21.52	\$44,763
★3	Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	\$23.47	\$48,808
★3	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	\$29.33	\$61,017
★3	Aircraft Mechanics and Service Technicians	\$38.09	\$79,227
★3	Dental Assistants	\$23.51	\$48,899

Associate's Degree

MEDIAN WAGE

Hourly Annual

★5	Registered Nurses	\$39.22	\$81,587
★5	Physical Therapist Assistants	\$33.05	\$68,744
★5	Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	\$37.80	\$78,632
★5	Civil Engineering Technologists and Technicians	\$27.46	\$57,116
★5	Occupational Therapy Assistants	\$30.50	\$63,430
★4	Architectural and Civil Drafters	\$31.65	\$65,823
★4	Industrial Engineering Technologists and Technicians	\$28.24	\$58,730
★3	Paralegals and Legal Assistants	\$26.50	\$55,130
★3	Medical Equipment Repairers	\$25.16	\$52,335
★3	Computer Newtwork Support Specialists	\$29.52	\$61,408

Bachelor's Degree

MEDIAN WAGE

Hourly Annual

★5	General and Operations Managers	\$42.13	\$87,637
★5	Accountants and Auditors	\$36.58	\$76,077
★5	Construction Managers	\$48.07	\$99,976
★5	Medical and Health Services Managers	\$50.36	\$104,752
★5	Project Management Specialists	\$43.57	\$90,635
★5	Industrial Engineers	\$45.39	\$94,412
★5	Logisticians	\$37.14	\$77,241
★5	Management Analysts	\$40.29	\$83,805
★5	Mechanical Engineers	\$46.55	\$96,834
★5	Computer Systems Analysts	\$39.28	\$81,712

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.