

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.

JACKSONVILLE-NEW BERN REGION



Carteret | Craven | Jones
Onslow | Pamlico



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	\$47.15	\$98,078
★5	Pharmacists	\$64.86	\$134,912
★5	Nurse Practitioners	\$55.89	\$116,258
★5	Speech-Language Pathologists	\$41.41	\$86,143
★5	Postsecondary Education Administrators	\$37.94	\$78,912
★5	Veterinarians	\$60.63	\$126,105
★5	Nurse Anesthetists	\$107.34	\$223,260
★5	Urban and Regional Planners	\$38.67	\$80,443
★4	Substance Abuse, Behavioral Disorder, and Mental Health Counselors	\$23.10	\$48,050
★4	Educational, Guidance, and Career Counselors and Advisors	\$26.77	\$55,685

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	\$32.29	\$67,160
★5	Food Service Managers	\$32.78	\$68,179
★5	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$34.35	\$71,448
★5	Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers	\$37.47	\$77,928
★5	Detectives and Criminal Investigators	\$34.15	\$71,038
★5	Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers	\$49.54	\$103,051
★4	Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers	\$27.86	\$57,940
★4	Sales Representatives of Services	\$24.41	\$50,771
★4	Electricians	\$24.67	\$51,308
★4	Property, Real Estate, and Community Association Managers	\$24.32	\$50,593

Postsecondary Training**MEDIAN WAGE****Hourly Annual**

★4	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	\$29.30	\$60,947
★4	Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	\$22.99	\$47,814
★4	Paramedics	\$24.36	\$50,666
★4	Surgical Technologists	\$23.76	\$49,415
★4	Avionics Technicians	\$46.75	\$97,240
★4	Fire Inspectors and Investigators	\$29.27	\$60,883
★3	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$21.71	\$45,160
★3	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	\$21.71	\$45,152
★3	Firefighters	\$20.63	\$42,901
★3	Dental Assistants	\$23.30	\$48,456

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

★5	Registered Nurses	\$39.60	\$82,369
★5	Dental Hygienists	\$41.40	\$86,117
★5	Physical Therapist Assistants	\$30.39	\$63,212
★4	Architectural and Civil Drafters	\$31.32	\$65,145
★4	Civil Engineering Technologists and Technicians	\$30.36	\$63,154
★4	Computer Network Support Specialists	\$34.49	\$71,737
★4	Mechanical Drafters	\$25.66	\$53,368
★3	Veterinary Technologists and Technicians	\$21.72	\$45,180
★3	Forest and Conservation Technicians	\$26.04	\$54,163
★3	Medical Equipment Repairers	\$17.17	\$35,715

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

★5	General and Operations Managers	\$42.30	\$87,975
★5	Logisticians	\$45.44	\$94,515
★5	Accountants and Auditors	\$35.89	\$74,642
★5	Management Analysts	\$48.28	\$100,422
★5	Mechanical Engineers	\$45.44	\$94,515
★5	Project Management Specialists	\$43.98	\$91,471
★5	Civil Engineers	\$44.40	\$92,343
★5	Financial Managers	\$60.73	\$126,310
★5	Computer Systems Analysts	\$47.16	\$98,101
★5	Occupational Health and Safety Specialists	\$43.83	\$91,166

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.