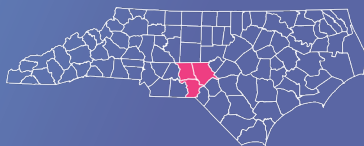


What are Star Jobs?

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.

PINEHURST-ROCKINGHAM REGION



Montgomery | Moore | Richmond



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
★	Nurse Practitioners	\$59.87	\$124,520
★	Kindergarten through Secondary Education Administrators	SALARY POSITION	\$85,559
★	Physical Therapists	\$45.48	\$94,591
★	Lawyers	\$48.10	\$100,056
★	Speech-Language Pathologists	\$38.05	\$79,148
★	Postsecondary Nursing Instructors and Teachers	SALARY POSITION	\$76,865
★	Veterinarians	\$60.67	\$126,193
★	Urban and Regional Planners	\$35.87	\$74,617
★	Educational, Guidance, and Career Counselors and Advisors	\$24.81	\$51,603
★	Healthcare Social Workers	\$29.21	\$60,755

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	Chefs and Head Cooks	\$29.93	\$62,252
★5	Food Service Managers	\$35.34	\$73,500
★4	First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers	\$33.47	\$69,609
★4	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$24.38	\$50,714
★4	Sales Representatives of Services	\$28.29	\$58,836
★4	Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers	\$24.88	\$51,741
★4	Electricians	\$22.45	\$46,692
★4	Eligibility Interviewers, Government Programs	\$24.94	\$51,877
★4	Real Estate Sales Agents	\$30.28	\$62,991
★4	Court, Municipal, and License Clerks	\$24.07	\$50,060

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

★5	Massage Therapists	\$27.05	\$56,259
★5	Powerhouse, Substation, and Relay Electrical and Electronics Repairers	\$50.08	\$104,175
★4	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	\$29.68	\$61,732
★4	Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	\$23.68	\$49,262
★4	Paramedics	\$30.68	\$63,825
★3	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$23.14	\$48,137
★3	Medical Assistants	\$20.38	\$42,395
★3	Dental Assistants	\$23.52	\$48,919
★3	Computer User Support Specialists	\$23.53	\$48,949
★3	Medical Records Specialists	\$22.41	\$46,612

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

★5	Registered Nurses	\$39.19	\$81,521
★5	Dental Hygienists	\$46.11	\$95,902
★5	Physical Therapist Assistants	\$30.38	\$63,193
★5	Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	\$44.11	\$91,748
★5	Occupational Therapy Assistants	\$30.15	\$62,720
★4	Medical Equipment Repairers	\$28.26	\$58,779
★4	Civil Engineering Technologists and Technicians	\$30.23	\$62,887
★3	Paralegals and Legal Assistants	\$24.39	\$50,739
★3	Chemical Technicians	\$27.02	\$56,210
★3	Computer Network Support Specialists	\$23.54	\$48,955

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

★5	General and Operations Managers	\$44.20	\$91,942
★5	Accountants and Auditors	\$36.49	\$75,910
★5	Human Resources Specialists	\$29.64	\$61,650
★5	Construction Managers	\$51.44	\$107,004
★5	Buyers and Purchasing Agents	\$31.91	\$66,382
★5	Sales Managers	\$51.83	\$107,806
★5	Computer Systems Analysts	\$45.30	\$94,231
★5	Industrial Engineers	\$42.64	\$88,691
★5	Meeting, Convention, and Event Planners	\$22.44	\$46,683
★5	Civil Engineers	\$46.06	\$95,798

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.