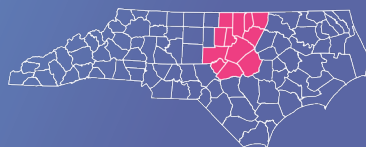


What are Star Jobs?

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.

RALEIGH-DURHAM REGION



Chatham | Durham | Franklin | Granville
Harnett | Johnston | Lee | Orange
Person | Vance | Wake | Warren



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
★	Lawyers	\$62.88	\$130,781
★	Nurse Practitioners	\$63.61	\$132,303
★	Pharmacists	\$65.81	\$136,891
★	Computer and Information Research Scientists	\$63.41	\$131,895
★	Medical Scientists	\$49.74	\$103,459
★	Dentists, General	\$99.79	\$207,560
★	Healthcare Social Workers	\$35.25	\$73,313
★	Statisticians	\$56.69	\$117,905
★	Veterinarians	\$63.04	\$131,123
★	Postsecondary Business Teachers	SALARY POSITION	\$79,388

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
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★5	First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers	\$37.01	\$76,980
★5	First-Line Supervisors of Non-Retail Sales Workers	\$48.68	\$101,264
★5	Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers	\$54.10	\$112,528
★5	Real Estate Brokers	\$37.90	\$78,837
★5	Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers	\$37.60	\$78,206
★4	Sales Representatives of Services	\$32.96	\$68,560
★4	Electricians	\$27.77	\$57,762
★4	Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers	\$29.86	\$62,117
★4	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$29.76	\$61,899
★4	Food Service Managers	\$36.44	\$75,798

Postsecondary Training

MEDIAN WAGE

	Hourly	Annual
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★5	Commercial Pilots	SALARY POSITION	\$132,351
★4	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	\$30.91	\$64,297
★4	Surgical Technologists	\$29.25	\$60,849
★4	Surgical Assistants	\$32.31	\$67,212
★4	Fire Inspectors and Investigators	\$37.38	\$77,746
★4	Avionics Technicians	\$30.78	\$64,022
★3	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	\$23.84	\$49,595
★3	Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	\$28.27	\$58,807
★3	Dental Assistants	\$27.12	\$56,405
★3	Telecommunications Equipment Installers and Repairers	\$29.55	\$61,459

Associate's Degree

MEDIAN WAGE

	Hourly	Annual
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★5	Registered Nurses	\$40.78	\$84,831
★5	Computer Network Support Specialists	\$31.19	\$64,883
★5	Respiratory Therapists	\$38.46	\$80,002
★4	Radiologic Technologists and Technicians	\$36.13	\$75,158
★4	Architectural and Civil Drafters	\$31.11	\$64,716
★4	Medical Equipment Repairers	\$29.79	\$61,960
★4	Electrical and Electronic Engineering Technologists and Technicians	\$34.92	\$72,644
★4	Industrial Engineering Technologists and Technicians	\$36.25	\$75,408
★4	Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians	\$30.19	\$62,797
★3	Paralegals and Legal Assistants	\$28.37	\$59,017

Bachelor's Degree

MEDIAN WAGE

	Hourly	Annual
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★5	General and Operations Managers	\$53.88	\$112,066
★5	Accountants and Auditors	\$39.52	\$82,212
★5	Project Management Specialists	\$49.24	\$102,420
★5	Market Research Analysts and Marketing Specialists	\$38.70	\$80,487
★5	Human Resources Specialists	\$37.08	\$77,116
★5	Management Analysts	\$48.18	\$100,210
★5	Computer Systems Analysts	\$51.16	\$106,418
★5	Construction Managers	\$57.68	\$119,979
★5	Personal Financial Advisors	\$38.70	\$80,501
★5	Civil Engineers	\$48.56	\$100,998

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.