

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.

ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON REGION



Edgecombe | Nash | Wilson



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
★	Pharmacists	\$64.11	\$133,342
★	Kindergarten through Secondary Education Administrators	SALARY POSITION	\$79,831
★	Lawyers	\$48.76	\$101,428
★	Nurse Practitioners	\$56.80	\$118,150
★	Veterinarians	\$60.41	\$125,649
★	Mental Health and Substance Abuse Social Workers	\$28.68	\$59,656
★	Substance Abuse, Behavioral Disorder, and Mental Health Counselors	\$25.81	\$53,694
★	Postsecondary Health Specialties Teachers	SALARY POSITION	\$59,792
★	Postsecondary Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Teachers	SALARY POSITION	\$59,292
★	School Psychologists	\$34.89	\$72,579

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.



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	\$36.25	\$75,406
★5	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$31.10	\$64,693
★5	Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers	\$49.74	\$103,466
★4	Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers	\$30.17	\$62,751
★4	Machinists	\$23.66	\$49,223
★4	Food Service Managers	\$34.16	\$71,047
★4	Mobile Heavy Equipment Mechanics	\$25.31	\$52,638
★4	Chefs and Head Cooks	\$28.85	\$60,008
★4	Farm Equipment Mechanics and Service Technicians	\$28.21	\$58,670
★4	Security and Fire Alarm Systems Installers	\$23.61	\$49,102

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

★5	First-Line Supervisors of Firefighting and Prevention Workers	\$28.30	\$58,867
★4	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	\$29.75	\$61,874
★4	Fire Inspectors and Investigators	\$30.32	\$63,056
★3	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$23.27	\$48,411
★3	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	\$21.52	\$44,753
★3	Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	\$24.19	\$50,313
★3	Computer User Support Specialists	\$24.42	\$50,792
★3	Dental Assistants	\$23.45	\$48,781
★3	Surgical Technologists	\$27.68	\$57,574
★3	Tool and Die Makers	\$27.94	\$58,115

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

★5	Registered Nurses	\$39.57	\$82,298
★5	Physical Therapist Assistants	\$31.92	\$66,392
★5	Respiratory Therapists	\$35.45	\$73,731
★4	Radiologic Technologists and Technicians	\$31.16	\$64,804
★4	Industrial Engineering Technologists and Technicians	\$36.19	\$75,276
★3	Paralegals and Legal Assistants	\$23.94	\$49,797
★3	Veterinary Technologists and Technicians	\$21.87	\$45,483
★3	Architectural and Civil Drafters	\$30.44	\$63,325
★3	Computer Network Support Specialists	\$28.41	\$59,102
★3	Civil Engineering Technologists and Technicians	\$29.99	\$62,375

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

★5	General and Operations Managers	\$46.52	\$96,768
★5	Industrial Engineers	\$45.16	\$93,943
★5	Accountants and Auditors	\$36.70	\$76,327
★5	Construction Managers	\$49.99	\$103,990
★5	Project Management Specialists	\$43.75	\$91,009
★5	Buyers and Purchasing Agents	\$30.94	\$64,353
★5	Logisticians	\$36.47	\$75,852
★5	Compliance Officers	\$34.01	\$70,746
★5	Occupational Health and Safety Specialists	\$38.89	\$80,894
★5	Personal Financial Advisors	\$36.76	\$76,464

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.