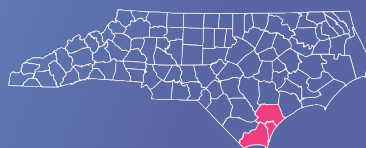


What are Star Jobs?

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.

WILMINGTON REGION



Brunswick | New Hanover | Pender



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	Physical Therapists	\$47.49	\$98,770
★5	Lawyers	\$52.70	\$109,616
★5	Nurse Practitioners	\$60.09	\$124,989
★5	Kindergarten through Secondary Education Administrators	SALARY POSITION	\$82,929
★5	Veterinarians	\$63.30	\$131,668
★5	Postsecondary Biological Science Teachers	SALARY POSITION	\$84,348
★5	Postsecondary Computer Science Teachers	SALARY POSITION	\$139,408
★5	Statisticians	\$61.78	\$128,495
★4	Mental Health and Substance Abuse Social Workers	\$26.44	\$54,989
★4	Librarians and Media Collections Specialists	\$30.30	\$63,025

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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High School & Work Experience**MEDIAN WAGE****Hourly Annual**

★5	First-Line Supervisors of Mechanics, Installers, and Repairers	\$35.17	\$73,160
★5	Food Service Managers	\$34.48	\$71,713
★5	Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers	\$46.67	\$97,082
★4	Real Estate Brokers	\$27.81	\$57,846
★4	Wholesale and Manufacturing Sales Representatives	\$30.53	\$63,513
★4	Electricians	\$26.00	\$54,080
★4	Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers	\$25.73	\$53,519
★4	Insurance Sales Agents	\$28.79	\$59,879
★4	Automotive Body and Related Repairers	\$24.07	\$50,062
★4	Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers	\$30.59	\$63,633

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

★5	Commercial Pilots	SALARY POSITION	\$172,319
★4	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	\$30.48	\$63,394
★4	Dental Assistants	\$24.57	\$51,107
★4	Surgical Technologists	\$29.28	\$60,899
★4	Captains, Mates, and Pilots of Water Vessels	\$30.38	\$63,190
★4	Commercial and Industrial Equipment Electrical and Electronics Repairers	\$32.57	\$67,739
★4	Aircraft Mechanics and Service Technicians	\$28.21	\$58,675
★3	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$23.49	\$48,853
★3	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	\$23.12	\$48,096
★3	Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	\$23.97	\$49,863

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

★5	Registered Nurses	\$38.93	\$80,970
★5	Dental Hygienists	\$46.49	\$96,697
★5	Physical Therapist Assistants	\$36.45	\$75,815
★5	Respiratory Therapists	\$38.95	\$81,022
★4	Architectural and Civil Drafters	\$32.05	\$66,656
★4	Medical Equipment Repairers	\$29.27	\$60,885
★3	Paralegals and Legal Assistants	\$26.95	\$56,062
★3	Chemical Technicians	\$29.42	\$61,197
★3	Radio, Cellular, and Tower Equipment Installers and Repairers	\$22.62	\$47,044
★3	Civil Engineering Technologists and Technicians	\$29.61	\$61,589

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

★5	General and Operations Managers	\$43.40	\$90,274
★5	Accountants and Auditors	\$37.46	\$77,919
★5	Construction Managers	\$49.91	\$103,806
★5	Project Management Specialists	\$42.84	\$89,117
★5	Market Research Analysts and Marketing Specialists	\$33.40	\$69,481
★5	Sales Managers	\$64.13	\$133,400
★5	Civil Engineers	\$45.41	\$94,453
★5	Buyers and Purchasing Agents	\$34.04	\$70,801
★5	Wholesale and Manufacturing- Technical and Scientific Products Sales Representatives	\$57.20	\$118,980
★5	Data Scientists	\$44.76	\$93,091

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.