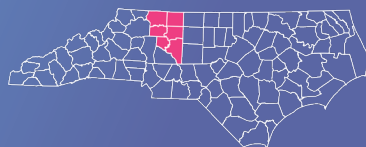


What are Star Jobs?

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.

WINSTON-SALEM REGION



Davidson | Davie | Forsyth
Stokes | Surry | Yadkin



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	Pharmacists	\$65.24	\$135,706
★5	Lawyers	\$59.25	\$123,233
★5	Nurse Practitioners	\$62.90	\$130,839
★5	Physical Therapists	\$48.69	\$101,269
★5	Postsecondary Education Administrators	\$47.30	\$98,394
★5	Veterinarians	\$61.12	\$127,124
★5	Clinical and Counseling Psychologists	\$38.27	\$79,600
★5	Postsecondary Computer Science Teachers	SALARY POSITION	\$79,123
★5	Psychiatrists	\$76.31	\$158,721
★4	Substance Abuse, Behavioral Disorder, and Mental Health Counselors	\$24.67	\$51,314

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	Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers	\$37.92	\$78,883
★5	Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers	\$51.07	\$106,217
★4	Electricians	\$26.78	\$55,709
★4	Insurance Sales Agents	\$23.41	\$48,696
★4	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$29.51	\$61,386
★4	Machinists	\$24.21	\$50,351
★4	Food Service Managers	\$34.75	\$72,277
★4	Chefs and Head Cooks	\$26.71	\$55,546
★4	Mobile Heavy Equipment Mechanics	\$29.55	\$61,462
★4	Community Health Workers	\$23.39	\$48,659

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

★5	Powerhouse, Substation, and Relay Electrical and Electronics Repairers	\$49.19	\$102,309
★4	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	\$30.26	\$62,950
★4	Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	\$25.96	\$53,997
★4	Medical Records Specialists	\$29.51	\$61,377
★4	Paramedics	\$29.02	\$60,359
★4	Aircraft Mechanics and Service Technicians	\$36.91	\$76,776
★4	Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Programmers	\$31.54	\$65,608
★4	Avionics Technicians	\$32.14	\$66,860
★3	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$24.67	\$51,318
★3	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	\$21.98	\$45,728

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

★5	Registered Nurses	\$41.40	\$86,119
★5	Radiologic Technologists and Technicians	\$37.61	\$78,227
★5	Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	\$41.93	\$87,222
★4	Physical Therapist Assistants	\$31.65	\$65,830
★4	Industrial Engineering Technologists and Technicians	\$33.11	\$68,870
★4	Architectural and Civil Drafters	\$27.08	\$56,326
★4	Medical Equipment Repairers	\$28.77	\$59,840
★4	Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians	\$27.73	\$57,670
★4	Electrical and Electronic Engineering Technologists and Technicians	\$36.75	\$76,430
★3	Dental Hygienists	\$46.12	\$95,932

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

★5	General and Operations Managers	\$46.37	\$96,448
★5	Construction Managers	\$51.38	\$106,861
★5	Project Management Specialists	\$38.65	\$80,383
★5	Buyers and Purchasing Agents	\$34.58	\$71,933
★5	Computer Systems Analysts	\$48.71	\$101,318
★5	Industrial Engineers	\$47.00	\$97,765
★5	Personal Financial Advisors	\$48.35	\$100,558
★5	Management Analysts	\$39.87	\$82,920
★5	Mechanical Engineers	\$45.82	\$95,310
★5	Data Scientists	\$48.62	\$101,123

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.