

# HICKORY REGION

## Top 10 Star Jobs

Top careers with high wages and employment growth by education requirements

### Advanced Degree

	Median Hourly Wage	Median Annual Wage
★ Mental Health & Substance Abuse Social Workers	\$24.05	\$50,033
★ Physician Assistants	\$50.46	\$104,955
★ Healthcare Social Workers	\$22.70	\$47,221
★ Rehabilitation Counselors	\$20.94	\$43,548
★ Health Specialties Teachers, Postsecondary	N/A	\$49,969
★ Physicians & Surgeons	\$94.55 <sup>i</sup>	\$196,670 <sup>i</sup>
★ Nurse Practitioners	\$47.74	\$99,289
★ Speech-Language Pathologists	\$34.09	\$70,901
★ Business Teachers, Postsecondary	N/A	\$56,207
★ Physical Therapists	\$41.68	\$86,691

All wage information is Prosperity Zone Sub-Region Median Hourly and Annual Wage data which was calculated based on the May 2018 Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) program of the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The OEWS program produces employment and wage estimates annually for more than 800 occupations for the U.S., individual states, and metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas; National occupational estimates for specific industries are also available.

i. State Median Wage

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.

## What are Star Jobs?

North Carolina's 5-Star Jobs represent occupations with the greatest projected employment potential through 2028. Occupations were rated from 1-5 stars based on wages, projected growth rates, and projected job openings. For a complete list of Star Jobs and explanation of the rating process, visit [www.nccommerce.com/starjobs](http://www.nccommerce.com/starjobs)



For more information on North Carolina careers go to:

- 🌐 [NCcareers.org](http://NCcareers.org)
- 🐦 [@CareersinNC](https://twitter.com/CareersinNC)
- ✉ [lead@nccommerce.com](mailto:lead@nccommerce.com)



NC DEPARTMENT  
of COMMERCE  
LABOR & ECONOMIC  
ANALYSIS

# HICKORY REGION STAR JOBS TOP 10 BY EDUCATION 2021



Alexander | Burke | Caldwell  
Catawba | McDowell

# HICKORY REGION Top 10 Star Jobs

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High School & Work Experience		Median Hourly Wage	Median Annual Wage
★	Operating Engineers & Other Const. Equipment Operators	\$18.73	\$38,956
★	First-Line Supervisors of Const. Trades & Extraction Workers	\$25.46	\$52,956
★	Electricians	\$21.45	\$44,621
★	Insurance Sales Agents	\$21.41	\$44,534
★	Food Service Managers	\$25.59	\$53,231
★	First-Line Supervisors of Landscaping Workers	\$27.44	\$57,069
★	Electrical Power-Line Installers & Repairers	\$31.12	\$64,727
★	Maintenance & Repair Workers, General	\$18.85	\$39,210
★	Sales Reps., Wholesale & Mfg., Exc. Tech. & Scientific Products	\$28.23	\$58,718
★	First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation & Serving Workers	\$15.51	\$32,251

Associate Degree		Median Hourly Wage	Median Annual Wage
★	Physical Therapist Assistants	\$27.74	\$57,691
★	Radiologic Technologists	\$26.10	\$54,297
★	Dental Hygienists	\$32.89	\$68,421
★	Respiratory Therapists	\$25.96	\$53,989
★	Occupational Therapy Assistants	\$29.67	\$61,710
★	Paralegals & Legal Assistants	\$18.77	\$39,040
★	Veterinary Technologists & Technicians	\$16.22	\$33,744
★	Mechanical Engineering Technicians	\$28.98	\$60,285
★	Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	\$30.77	\$64,010
★	Web Developers	\$23.61	\$49,112

Postsecondary Training		Median Hourly Wage	Median Annual Wage
★	Computer User Support Specialists	\$19.92	\$41,431
★	Heating, A/C, & Refrigeration Mechanics & Installers	\$19.87	\$41,332
★	Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$20.57	\$42,785
★	Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	\$21.72	\$45,179
★	Dental Assistants	\$16.34	\$33,996
★	Medical Records & Health Information Technicians	\$15.32	\$31,861
★	Surgical Technologists	\$18.71	\$38,925
★	Massage Therapists	\$17.65	\$36,710
★	Computer Numerically Controlled Machine Tool Programmers	\$18.92	\$39,353
★	Ophthalmic Medical Technicians	\$19.55	\$40,672

Bachelor's Degree		Median Hourly Wage	Median Annual Wage
★	Registered Nurses	\$28.31	\$58,888
★	General & Operations Managers	\$49.88	\$103,751
★	Accountants & Auditors	\$30.69	\$63,844
★	Sub. Abuse, Behavioral Disorder, & Mental Health Counselors	\$21.39	\$44,489
★	Market Research Analysts & Marketing Specialists	\$31.22	\$64,940
★	Industrial Engineers	\$34.63	\$72,037
★	Medical & Health Services Managers	\$47.29	\$98,362
★	Financial Managers	\$53.69	\$111,676
★	Loan Officers	\$34.59	\$71,950
★	Software Developers, Applications	\$52.15	\$108,470