

WAYNESVILLE-FRANKLIN REGION

Top 10 Star Jobs

Top careers with high wages and employment growth by education requirements

Advanced Degree

		Median Hourly Wage	Median Annual Wage
★	Rehabilitation Counselors	\$19.93	\$41,455
★	Physicians & Surgeons	\$94.55 ⁱ	\$196,670 ⁱ
★	Physician Assistants	\$43.31	\$90,090
★	Nurse Practitioners	\$46.81	\$97,367
★	Business Teachers, Postsecondary	N/A	\$93,322
★	Health Specialties Teachers, Postsecondary	N/A	\$61,456
★	Physical Therapists	\$41.25	\$85,810
★	Clinical, Counseling, & School Psychologists	\$26.22	\$54,534
★	Urban & Regional Planners	\$27.04	\$56,237
★	Speech-Language Pathologists	\$36.19	\$75,267

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



For more information on North Carolina careers go to:

- NCcareers.org
- [@CareersinNC](https://twitter.com/CareersinNC)
- lead@nccommerce.com



NC DEPARTMENT
of COMMERCE
LABOR & ECONOMIC
ANALYSIS

WAYNESVILLE-FRANKLIN
REGION

STAR JOBS

TOP 10 BY EDUCATION

2021



Cherokee | Clay | Graham | Haywood
Jackson | Macon | Swain

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High School & Work Experience		Median Hourly Wage	Median Annual Wage
★	First-Line Supervisors of Const. Trades & Extraction Workers	\$25.62	\$53,279
★	First-Line Supervisors of Landscaping Workers	\$25.04	\$52,079
★	Food Service Managers	\$27.49	\$57,182
★	Chefs & Head Cooks	\$23.16	\$48,171
★	Insurance Sales Agents	\$33.82	\$70,336
★	Real Estate Sales Agents	\$27.84	\$57,909
★	Electrical Power-Line Installers & Repairers	\$35.50	\$73,845
★	First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation & Serving Workers	\$16.80	\$34,943
★	Maintenance & Repair Workers, General	\$17.29	\$35,957
★	Carpenters	\$17.92	\$37,276

Associate Degree		Median Hourly Wage	Median Annual Wage
★	Physical Therapist Assistants	\$25.34	\$52,709
★	Dental Hygienists	\$28.69	\$59,681
★	Occupational Therapy Assistants	\$36.34	\$75,594
★	Paralegals & Legal Assistants	\$14.63	\$30,434
★	Civil Engineering Technicians	\$23.01 ^l	\$47,870 ^l
★	Radiologic Technologists	\$24.14	\$50,219
★	Veterinary Technologists & Technicians	\$18.67	\$38,837
★	Respiratory Therapists	\$22.88	\$47,596
★	Computer Network Support Specialists	\$24.01	\$49,950
★	Web Developers	\$30.59	\$63,627

Postsecondary Training		Median Hourly Wage	Median Annual Wage
★	Heating, A/C, & Refrigeration Mechanics & Installers	\$17.52	\$36,432
★	Massage Therapists	\$19.03 ⁱ	\$39,590 ⁱ
★	Computer User Support Specialists	\$20.91	\$43,503
★	Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$17.34	\$36,071
★	Medical Assistants	\$14.45	\$30,054
★	Emergency Medical Technicians & Paramedics	\$17.25	\$35,882
★	Dental Assistants	\$17.28	\$35,949
★	Audio & Video Equipment Technicians	\$19.05 ⁱ	\$39,620 ⁱ
★	Skincare Specialists	\$18.96 ⁱ	\$39,440 ⁱ
★	Ophthalmic Medical Technicians	\$17.04 ⁱ	\$35,440 ⁱ

Bachelor's Degree		Median Hourly Wage	Median Annual Wage
★	Registered Nurses	\$28.50	\$59,271
★	General & Operations Managers	\$40.08	\$83,364
★	Accountants & Auditors	\$27.99	\$58,222
★	Sub. Abuse, Behavioral Disorder, & Mental Health Counselors	\$22.54 ⁱ	\$46,870 ⁱ
★	Construction Managers	\$37.10	\$77,176
★	Market Research Analysts & Marketing Specialists	\$19.04	\$39,605
★	Medical & Health Services Managers	\$47.92	\$99,680
★	Financial Managers	\$43.15	\$89,757
★	Loan Officers	\$22.48	\$46,758
★	Management Analysts	\$28.68	\$59,655