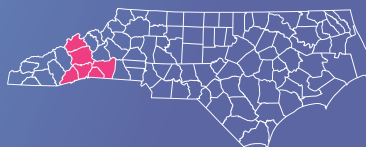


What are Star Jobs?

North Carolina's 5-Star Jobs represent occupations with the greatest projected employment potential through 2032. Occupations were rated from 1-5 stars based on wages, projected growth rates, and projected job openings.

ASHEVILLE REGION



Buncombe | Henderson | Madison
Polk | Rutherford | Transylvania



For a complete list of Star Jobs and explanation of the rating process, scan the QR code or visit: www.commerce.nc.gov/data-tools-reports/labor-market-data-tools/employment-projections#StarJobs-274

Advanced Degree

		MEDIAN WAGE	
		Hourly	Annual
5	Substance Abuse, Behavioral Disorder, and Mental Health Counselors	\$27.79	\$57,796
5	Lawyers	\$49.17	\$102,274
5	Nurse Practitioners	\$58.37	\$121,404
5	Physical Therapists	\$47.74	\$99,294
5	Physician Assistants	\$63.20	\$131,437
5	Veterinarians	\$61.27	\$127,438
5	Health Specialties Teachers, Postsecondary	SALARY POSITION	\$71,088
4	Instructional Coordinators	\$27.63	\$57,462
4	Education Administrators, Postsecondary	\$41.30	\$85,894
4	Healthcare Social Workers	\$30.77	\$63,995

All wages are based on LEAD analysis of data of Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) 2024 Data released in May 2025.

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.

NORTH CAROLINA Star Jobs ASHEVILLE REGION 2025

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	\$32.90	\$68,434
★5	Electricians	\$24.58	\$51,129
★5	FirstLine Supervisors of Transportation & Material Moving Workers, Exc Aircraft Cargo Handling Supervisor	\$27.46	\$57,112
★5	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$30.45	\$63,326
★5	Food Service Managers	\$30.29	\$63,018
★5	Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers	\$38.59	\$80,266
★5	Exercise Trainers and Group Fitness Instructors	\$23.77	\$49,439
★5	Chefs and Head Cooks	\$29.60	\$61,566
★5	Tax Preparers	\$22.80	\$47,427
★4	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	\$21.88	\$45,523

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

★5	Dental Assistants	\$24.10	\$50,129
★5	Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	\$25.30	\$52,621
★5	Massage Therapists	\$28.81	\$59,927
★4	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$24.42	\$50,793
★4	Medical Assistants	\$19.42	\$40,411
★4	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	\$23.52	\$48,926
★4	Computer User Support Specialists	\$27.34	\$56,867
★4	Audio and Video Technicians	\$21.87	\$45,473
★4	Ophthalmic Medical Technicians	\$18.84	\$39,201
★4	Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Programmers	\$30.40	\$63,248

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

★5	Physical Therapist Assistants	\$30.36	\$63,137
★4	Registered Nurses	\$39.36	\$81,872
★4	Paralegals and Legal Assistants	\$23.87	\$49,667
★4	Veterinary Technologists and Technicians	\$22.50	\$46,787
★4	Computer Network Support Specialists	\$35.95	\$74,788
★4	Medical Equipment Repairers	\$19.46	\$40,489
★4	Environmental Science and Protection Technicians, Including Health	\$23.10	\$48,055
★3	Radiologic Technologists and Technicians	\$32.61	\$67,818
★3	Electrical and Electronics Engineering Technologists and Technicians	\$32.44	\$67,485
★3	Civil Engineering Technologists and Technicians	\$29.77	\$61,921

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

★5	General and Operations Managers	\$41.40	\$86,103
★5	Accountants and Auditors	\$36.40	\$75,709
★5	Construction Managers	\$47.16	\$98,103
★5	Market Research Analysts and Marketing Specialists	\$29.18	\$60,703
★5	Software Developers	\$57.07	\$118,699
★5	Training and Development Specialists	\$24.77	\$51,519
★5	Project Management Specialists	\$41.12	\$85,519
★5	Management Analysts	\$42.40	\$88,200
★5	Financial Managers	\$63.22	\$131,486
★5	Industrial Engineers	\$47.63	\$99,059

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.