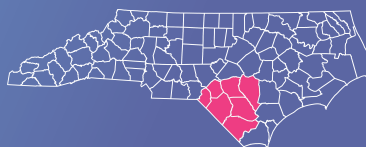


What are Star Jobs?

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.

FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON REGION



Bladen | Columbus | Cumberland
Hoke | Robeson | Sampson | Scotland



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	Kindergarten through Secondary Education Administrators	SALARY POSITION	\$79,910
★5	Pharmacists	\$66.08	\$137,447
★5	Nurse Practitioners	\$57.49	\$119,574
★5	Postsecondary Business Teachers	SALARY POSITION	\$83,262
★5	Clinical and Counseling Psychologists	\$39.13	\$81,395
★5	Veterinarians	\$52.36	\$108,906
★4	Substance Abuse, Behavioral Disorder, and Mental Health Counselors	\$25.95	\$53,982
★4	Educational, Guidance, and Career Counselors and Advisors	\$27.63	\$57,471
★4	Mental Health and Substance Abuse Social Workers	\$25.72	\$53,504
★4	Healthcare Social Workers	\$29.70	\$61,760

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

FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON REGION

2026

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	\$31.24	\$64,968
★5	Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers	\$44.85	\$93,288
★4	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$30.63	\$63,724
★4	Electricians	\$26.04	\$54,152
★4	Food Service Managers	\$29.73	\$61,827
★4	Detectives and Criminal Investigators	\$29.86	\$62,094
★4	Mobile Heavy Equipment Mechanics	\$29.33	\$60,999
★4	Chefs and Head Cooks	\$28.52	\$59,317
★4	Lodging Managers	\$27.75	\$57,708
★4	Crane and Tower Operators	\$28.05	\$58,346

Postsecondary Training

MEDIAN WAGE

Hourly Annual

★4	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	\$29.74	\$61,862
★4	Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	\$25.16	\$52,323
★4	Surgical Technologists	\$29.36	\$61,066
★4	Massage Therapists	\$27.46	\$57,112
★4	Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Programmers	\$30.61	\$63,657
★3	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$23.16	\$48,174
★3	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	\$22.53	\$46,863
★3	Paramedics	\$23.82	\$49,545
★3	Medical Records Specialists	\$23.08	\$48,016
★3	Fire Inspectors and Investigators	\$27.25	\$56,684

Associate's Degree

MEDIAN WAGE

Hourly Annual

★5	Registered Nurses	\$38.67	\$80,437
★5	Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	\$38.39	\$79,850
★5	Computer Network Support Specialists	\$36.88	\$76,700
★5	Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists	\$37.75	\$78,509
★4	Radiologic Technologists and Technicians	\$32.99	\$68,618
★4	Medical Equipment Repairers	\$24.53	\$51,027
★4	Health Information Technologists and Medical Registrars	\$30.93	\$64,332
★3	Paralegals and Legal Assistants	\$22.99	\$47,814
★3	Electrical and Electronic Engineering Technologists and Technicians	\$37.28	\$77,547
★3	Civil Engineering Technologists and Technicians	\$29.77	\$61,921

Bachelor's Degree

MEDIAN WAGE

Hourly Annual

★5	General and Operations Managers	\$40.92	\$85,105
★5	Construction Managers	\$49.74	\$103,447
★5	Project Management Specialists	\$45.29	\$94,202
★5	Logisticians	\$41.68	\$86,701
★5	Computer Systems Analysts	\$43.40	\$90,266
★5	All Other Social Workers	\$45.08	\$93,769
★5	Social and Community Service Managers	\$35.51	\$73,852
★5	Civil Engineers	\$45.18	\$93,991
★5	Dietitians and Nutritionists	\$32.67	\$67,943
★5	Personal Financial Advisors	\$48.19	\$100,228

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.