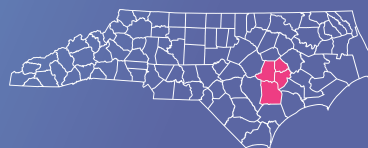


What are Star Jobs?

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.

GOLDSBORO-KINSTON REGION



Duplin | Greene | Lenoir | Wayne



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	Nurse Practitioners	\$50.57	\$105,181
5	Veterinarians	\$51.90	\$107,946
4	Physician Assistants	\$55.61	\$115,668
4	Speech-Language Pathologists	\$39.17	\$81,468
4	Nursing Instructors and Teachers, Postsecondary	SALARY POSITION	\$66,038
3	Education Administrators, Kindergarten through Secondary	SALARY POSITION	\$78,270
3	Substance Abuse, Behavioral Disorder, and Mental Health Counselors	\$25.11	\$52,231
3	Pharmacists	\$64.07	\$133,261
3	Educational, Guidance, and Career Counselors and Advisors	\$28.19	\$58,643
3	Lawyers	\$50.71	\$105,467

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

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NORTH CAROLINA Star Jobs

GOLDSBORO-KINSTON REGION

2025

Top 10 careers with high wages and employment growth, grouped by education requirements.

High School & Work Experience**MEDIAN WAGE**
Hourly Annual

★5	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$25.78	\$53,618
★5	Chefs and Head Cooks	\$28.90	\$60,109
★4	Meat, Poultry, and Fish Cutters and Trimmers	\$17.59	\$36,578
★4	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	\$22.18	\$46,133
★4	Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	\$18.38	\$38,228
★4	First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	\$31.02	\$64,525
★4	Electricians	\$24.71	\$51,390
★4	Insurance Sales Agents	\$28.23	\$58,711
★4	Food Batchmakers	\$19.21	\$39,970
★4	Production, Planning, and Expediting Clerks	\$23.32	\$48,508

Postsecondary Training**MEDIAN WAGE**
Hourly Annual

★5	Aircraft Mechanics and Service Technicians	\$38.90	\$80,920
★4	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$22.96	\$47,751
★4	Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	\$22.91	\$47,643
★4	Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Programmers	\$34.68	\$72,148
★3	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	\$22.66	\$47,130
★3	Firefighters	\$17.56	\$36,524
★3	Hairdressers, Hairstylists, and Cosmetologists	\$14.49	\$30,135
★3	First-Line Supervisors of Firefighting and Prevention Workers	\$24.92	\$51,829
★3	Electrical and Electronics Repairers, Commercial and Industrial Equipment	\$40.44	\$84,102
★3	Tutors	\$23.12	\$48,103

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

★4	Registered Nurses	\$38.97	\$81,048
★4	Physical Therapist Assistants	\$33.24	\$69,153
★4	Occupational Therapy Assistants	\$29.73	\$61,823
★4	Computer Network Support Specialists	\$25.57	\$53,192
★4	Medical Equipment Repairers	\$25.30	\$52,621
★4	Architectural and Civil Drafters	\$29.16	\$60,641
★3	Dental Hygienists	\$39.17	\$81,471
★3	Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	\$39.40	\$81,953
★3	Electrical and Electronics Engineering Technologists and Technicians	\$36.61	\$76,165
★2	Industrial Engineering Technologists and Technicians	\$28.70	\$59,706

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

★5	Medical and Health Services Managers	\$50.52	\$105,071
★5	Industrial Engineers	\$41.16	\$85,610
★5	Mechanical Engineers	\$43.82	\$91,159
★4	Construction Managers	\$48.26	\$100,381
★4	Training and Development Specialists	\$24.81	\$51,594
★4	Management Analysts	\$37.15	\$77,272
★4	Computer and Information Systems Managers	\$63.92	\$132,960
★4	Civil Engineers	\$38.37	\$79,794
★4	Logisticians	\$37.17	\$77,309
★4	Facilities Managers	\$48.74	\$101,382

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.