

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.

JACKSONVILLE-NEW BERN REGION



Carteret | Craven | Jones
Onslow | Pamlico



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	\$24.39	\$50,739
★5	Nurse Practitioners	\$56.07	\$116,613
★5	Physical Therapists	\$46.46	\$96,647
★5	Physician Assistants	\$57.20	\$118,988
★5	Speech-Language Pathologists	\$44.55	\$92,665
★5	Veterinarians	\$56.61	\$117,754
★5	Nursing Instructors and Teachers, Postsecondary	SALARY POSITION	\$65,322
★4	Lawyers	\$49.00	\$101,905
★4	Education Administrators, Kindergarten through Secondary	SALARY POSITION	\$79,630
★4	Instructional Coordinators	\$29.01	\$60,327

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

JACKSONVILLE-NEW BERN REGION
2025

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

High School & Work Experience

MEDIAN WAGE

Hourly Annual

★5	Electricians	\$24.97	\$51,927
★5	Insurance Sales Agents	\$23.23	\$48,303
★5	Food Service Managers	\$30.96	\$64,408
★5	Exercise Trainers and Group Fitness Instructors	\$20.90	\$43,478
★5	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$35.11	\$73,032
★5	Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers	\$37.67	\$78,352
★5	Chefs and Head Cooks	\$28.22	\$58,698
★5	Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers	\$45.21	\$94,043
★4	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	\$20.87	\$43,406
★4	Light Truck Drivers	\$17.52	\$36,437

Postsecondary Training

MEDIAN WAGE

Hourly Annual

★5	Massage Therapists	\$25.09	\$52,181
★4	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$21.69	\$45,120
★4	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	\$22.46	\$46,703
★4	Medical Assistants	\$18.17	\$37,805
★4	Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	\$23.94	\$49,794
★4	Dental Assistants	\$22.49	\$46,793
★4	Avionics Technicians	\$37.40	\$77,794
★4	Ophthalmic Medical Technicians	\$17.82	\$37,056
★4	Skincare Specialists	\$22.01	\$45,774
★4	Fire Inspectors and Investigators	\$32.75	\$68,111

Associate's Degree

MEDIAN WAGE

Hourly Annual

★5	Physical Therapist Assistants	\$29.82	\$62,019
★5	Respiratory Therapists	\$32.27	\$67,125
★5	Occupational Therapy Assistants	\$33.48	\$69,635
★4	Registered Nurses	\$37.89	\$78,815
★4	Radiologic Technologists and Technicians	\$29.88	\$62,147
★4	Computer Network Support Specialists	\$32.52	\$67,636
★4	Environmental Science and Protection Technicians, Including Health	\$22.82	\$47,455
★4	Architectural and Civil Drafters	\$28.25	\$58,759
★4	Dental Hygienists	\$39.12	\$81,369
★4	Veterinary Technologists and Technicians	\$19.21	\$39,951

Bachelor's Degree

MEDIAN WAGE

Hourly Annual

★5	Construction Managers	\$46.19	\$96,086
★5	Logisticians	\$45.06	\$93,721
★5	Management Analysts	\$47.88	\$99,585
★5	Mechanical Engineers	\$45.22	\$94,065
★5	Software Developers	\$52.70	\$109,604
★5	Medical and Health Services Managers	\$47.88	\$99,585
★5	Market Research Analysts and Marketing Specialists	\$28.97	\$60,271
★5	Project Management Specialists	\$39.66	\$82,494
★5	Training and Development Specialists	\$18.19	\$37,825
★5	Aerospace Engineers	\$55.46	\$115,350

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.