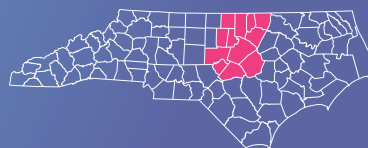


What are Star Jobs?

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.

RALEIGH-DURHAM REGION



Chatham | Durham | Franklin | Granville
Harnett | Johnston | Lee | Orange
Person | Vance | Wake | Warren



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	\$62.19	\$129,356
5	Pharmacists	\$66.52	\$138,373
5	Substance Abuse, Behavioral Disorder, and Mental Health Counselors	\$29.42	\$61,204
5	Physician Assistants	\$61.06	\$126,991
5	Physical Therapists	\$46.24	\$96,177
5	Medical Scientists, Except Epidemiologists	\$50.62	\$105,294
5	Education Administrators, Postsecondary	\$51.48	\$107,060
5	Speech-Language Pathologists	\$40.08	\$83,372
5	Statisticians	\$62.12	\$129,217
5	Veterinarians	\$61.22	\$127,342

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

High School & Work Experience

		MEDIAN WAGE	
		Hourly	Annual
★5	Electricians	\$27.87	\$57,961
★5	Self-Enrichment Teachers	\$21.45	\$44,610
★5	Property, Real Estate, and Community Association Managers	\$30.94	\$64,359
★5	Police and Sheriff’s Patrol Officers	\$30.37	\$63,159
★5	Exercise Trainers and Group Fitness Instructors	\$23.51	\$48,908
★5	Food Service Managers	\$32.44	\$67,468
★5	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$29.60	\$61,581
★5	Real Estate Brokers	\$37.16	\$77,293
★5	Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers	\$52.49	\$109,161
★5	Chefs and Head Cooks	\$30.79	\$64,061

Postsecondary Training

		MEDIAN WAGE	
		Hourly	Annual
★5	Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	\$26.44	\$54,998
★5	Dental Assistants	\$24.46	\$50,872
★5	Massage Therapists	\$39.18	\$81,492
★4	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$24.66	\$51,288
★4	Computer User Support Specialists	\$29.86	\$62,108
★4	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	\$24.98	\$51,959
★4	Medical Assistants	\$21.34	\$44,381
★4	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	\$29.98	\$62,355
★4	Medical Records Specialists	\$25.99	\$54,062
★4	Psychiatric Technicians	\$20.36	\$42,348

Associate’s Degree

		MEDIAN WAGE	
		Hourly	Annual
★5	Registered Nurses	\$40.58	\$84,409
★5	Radiologic Technologists and Technicians	\$34.15	\$71,020
★5	Dental Hygienists	\$47.10	\$97,960
★5	Respiratory Therapists	\$38.50	\$80,085
★5	Medical Equipment Repairers	\$30.07	\$62,561
★5	Physical Therapist Assistants	\$32.60	\$67,805
★4	Computer Network Support Specialists	\$43.08	\$89,607
★4	Veterinary Technologists and Technicians	\$22.71	\$47,230
★4	Architectural and Civil Drafters	\$31.93	\$66,415
★4	Chemical Technicians	\$24.33	\$50,604

Bachelor’s Degree

		MEDIAN WAGE	
		Hourly	Annual
★5	Software Developers	\$64.18	\$133,485
★5	General and Operations Managers	\$52.45	\$109,089
★5	Accountants and Auditors	\$39.39	\$81,936
★5	Construction Managers	\$54.40	\$113,139
★5	Market Research Analysts and Marketing Specialists	\$39.21	\$81,544
★5	Computer and Information Systems Managers	\$82.29	\$171,164
★5	Human Resources Specialists	\$36.50	\$75,911
★5	Project Management Specialists	\$50.10	\$104,219
★5	Computer Systems Analysts	\$51.82	\$107,769
★5	Management Analysts	\$45.70	\$95,042

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.