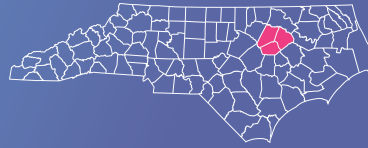


What are Star Jobs?

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.

ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON REGION



Edgecombe | Nash | Wilson



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 Pharmacists	\$63.75	\$132,602
★ 5 Kindergarten through Secondary Education Administrators	SALARY POSITION	\$77,746
★ 5 Lawyers	\$45.71	\$95,076
★ 5 Nurse Practitioners	\$55.71	\$115,876
★ 5 Veterinarians	\$61.01	\$126,920
★ 5 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Social Workers	\$30.42	\$63,264
★ 4 Substance Abuse, Behavioral Disorder, and Mental Health Counselors	\$23.90	\$49,729
★ 4 Postsecondary Health Specialties Teachers	SALARY POSITION	\$58,193
★ 4 Postsecondary Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Teachers	SALARY POSITION	\$58,674
★ 4 School Psychologists	\$34.18	\$71,089

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 First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers	\$36.71	\$76,373
★5 Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$31.02	\$64,527
★5 Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers	\$48.82	\$101,535
★4 Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers	\$28.97	\$60,265
★4 Machinists	\$27.91	\$58,059
★4 Food Service Managers	\$28.57	\$59,417
★4 Mobile Heavy Equipment Mechanics	\$25.25	\$52,521
★4 Chefs and Head Cooks	\$28.82	\$59,939
★4 Farm Equipment Mechanics and Service Technicians	\$31.19	\$64,874
★4 Security and Fire Alarm Systems Installers	\$26.82	\$55,783

Postsecondary Training

	MEDIAN WAGE	
	Hourly	Annual
★4 Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	\$29.01	\$60,341
★4 Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Programmers	\$28.03	\$58,292
★4 Fire Inspectors and Investigators	\$29.27	\$60,887
★3 Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$23.07	\$47,982
★3 Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	\$22.66	\$47,130
★3 Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	\$24.09	\$50,118
★3 Computer User Support Specialists	\$24.48	\$50,921
★3 Dental Assistants	\$22.64	\$47,077
★3 Surgical Technologists	\$26.59	\$55,317
★3 Tool and Die Makers	\$30.14	\$62,691

Associate's Degree

	MEDIAN WAGE	
	Hourly	Annual
★5 Registered Nurses	\$38.96	\$81,019
★5 Physical Therapist Assistants	\$30.72	\$63,903
★5 Respiratory Therapists	\$33.32	\$69,294
★4 Radiologic Technologists and Technicians	\$30.52	\$63,479
★4 Industrial Engineering Technologists and Technicians	\$33.43	\$69,526
★3 Paralegals and Legal Assistants	\$22.87	\$47,570
★3 Veterinary Technologists and Technicians	\$22.51	\$46,806
★3 Architectural and Civil Drafters	\$30.22	\$62,870
★3 Computer Network Support Specialists	\$37.63	\$78,256
★3 Civil Engineering Technologists and Technicians	\$29.77	\$61,919

Bachelor's Degree

	MEDIAN WAGE	
	Hourly	Annual
★5 General and Operations Managers	\$45.88	\$95,434
★5 Industrial Engineers	\$45.40	\$94,428
★5 Accountants and Auditors	\$35.99	\$74,862
★5 Construction Managers	\$51.73	\$107,603
★5 Project Management Specialists	\$47.78	\$99,384
★5 Buyers and Purchasing Agents	\$33.27	\$69,197
★5 Logisticians	\$35.77	\$74,404
★5 Compliance Officers	\$34.85	\$72,485
★5 Occupational Health and Safety Specialists	\$40.58	\$84,396
★5 Personal Financial Advisors	\$48.19	\$100,233

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.