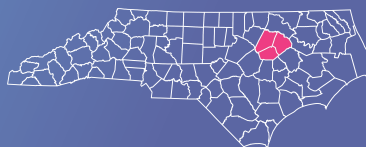


## What are Star Jobs?

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.

### 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/data-tools-reports/labor-market-data-tools/employment-projections#StarJobs-274](http://www.commerce.nc.gov/data-tools-reports/labor-market-data-tools/employment-projections#StarJobs-274)

### Advanced Degree

		MEDIAN WAGE	
		Hourly	Annual
★5	Nurse Practitioners	\$55.71	\$115,876
★5	Physician Assistants	\$52.81	\$109,845
★5	Speech-Language Pathologists	\$41.64	\$86,611
★5	Veterinarians	\$61.01	\$126,920
★5	Nursing Instructors and Teachers, Postsecondary	SALARY POSITION	\$72,862
★4	Substance Abuse, Behavioral Disorder, and Mental Health Counselors	\$23.90	\$49,729
★4	Health Specialties Teachers, Postsecondary	SALARY POSITION	\$58,193
★4	Occupational Therapists	\$48.39	\$100,638
★3	Pharmacists	\$63.75	\$132,602
★3	Education Administrators, Kindergarten through Secondary	SALARY POSITION	\$77,746

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.

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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	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$31.02	\$64,527
★4	First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and Serving Workers	\$18.46	\$38,397
★4	Electrical, Electronic, and Electromechanical Assemblers, Except Coil Winders, Tapers, and Finishers	\$19.58	\$40,726
★4	Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	\$25.26	\$52,546
★4	Pharmacy Technicians	\$18.34	\$38,131
★4	Machinists	\$27.91	\$58,059
★4	Mobile Heavy Equipment Mechanics, Except Engines	\$25.25	\$52,521
★4	First-line Supervisors of Entertainment And Recreation Workers, Except Gambling Services	\$24.36	\$50,651
★4	Chefs and Head Cooks	\$28.82	\$59,939
★3	Stockers and Order Fillers	\$16.70	\$34,728

**Postsecondary Training****MEDIAN WAGE****Hourly      Annual**

★4	Psychiatric Technicians	\$18.57	\$38,631
★3	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	\$22.66	\$47,130
★3	Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	\$24.09	\$50,118
★3	Firefighters	\$17.45	\$36,306
★3	Medical Assistants	\$18.45	\$38,367
★3	Emergency Medical Technicians	\$19.03	\$39,582
★3	Paramedics	\$24.71	\$51,396
★3	First-Line Supervisors of Firefighting and Prevention Workers	\$36.60	\$76,126
★3	Fire Inspectors and Investigators	\$29.27	\$60,887
★3	Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Programmers	\$28.03	\$58,292

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

★5	Occupational Therapy Assistants	\$35.54	\$73,937
★4	Registered Nurses	\$38.96	\$81,019
★4	Industrial Engineering Technologists and Technicians	\$33.43	\$69,526
★4	Electrical and Electronics Engineering Technologists and Technicians	\$36.80	\$76,536
★4	Physical Therapist Assistants	\$30.72	\$63,903
★4	Veterinary Technologists and Technicians	\$22.51	\$46,806
★3	Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education	\$13.99	\$29,081
★3	Radiologic Technologists and Technicians	\$30.52	\$63,479
★3	Dental Hygienists	\$40.11	\$83,423
★3	Chemical Technicians	\$21.69	\$45,125

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

★5	Industrial Engineers	\$45.40	\$94,428
★5	Medical and Health Services Managers	\$45.80	\$95,258
★5	Software Developers	\$54.46	\$113,279
★5	Mechanical Engineers	\$47.74	\$99,302
★5	Chemists	\$33.29	\$69,245
★5	Logisticians	\$35.77	\$74,404
★5	Occupational Health and Safety Specialists	\$40.58	\$84,396
★5	Data Scientists	\$49.08	\$102,085
★4	Construction Managers	\$51.73	\$107,603
★4	Financial Managers	\$66.52	\$138,355

*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.*