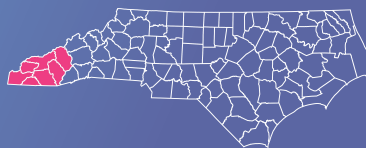


What are Star Jobs?

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.

WAYNESVILLE-FRANKLIN REGION



Cherokee | Clay | Graham | Haywood
| Jackson | Macon | Swain



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	\$25.05	\$52,104
★5	Nurse Practitioners	\$59.00	\$122,713
★5	Health Specialties Teachers, Postsecondary	SALARY POSITION	\$69,122
★5	Physician Assistants	\$60.73	\$126,322
★5	Business Teachers, Postsecondary	SALARY POSITION	\$134,499
★5	Nursing Instructors and Teachers, Postsecondary	SALARY POSITION	\$78,469
★4	Lawyers	\$61.46	\$127,840
★4	Education Administrators, Postsecondary	\$50.54	\$105,110
★4	Physical Therapists	\$46.71	\$97,156
★4	Speech-Language Pathologists	\$42.21	\$87,804

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

WAYNESVILLE-FRANKLIN REGION

2025

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



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

★	Electricians	\$23.70	\$49,300
★	Food Service Managers	\$38.53	\$80,138
★	First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers	\$31.60	\$65,715
★	First-Line Supervisors of Mechanics, Installers, and Repairers	\$31.90	\$66,346
★	First-Line Supervisors of Landscaping, Lawn Service, and Groundskeeping Workers	\$27.07	\$56,300
★	Chefs and Head Cooks	\$30.02	\$62,448
★	Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers	\$35.72	\$74,292
★	Stockers and Order Fillers	\$18.47	\$38,421
★	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	\$19.86	\$41,310
★	Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers	\$23.03	\$47,906

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

★	Computer User Support Specialists	\$26.05	\$54,197
★	Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	\$25.04	\$52,086
★	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$22.63	\$47,069
★	Medical Assistants	\$18.19	\$37,833
★	Paramedics	\$22.71	\$47,224
★	First-Line Supervisors of Firefighting and Prevention Workers	\$26.69	\$55,525
★	Massage Therapists	\$23.09	\$48,044
★	Psychiatric Technicians	\$19.12	\$39,773
★	Firefighters	\$16.00	\$33,283
★	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	\$21.77	\$45,293

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

★	Physical Therapist Assistants	\$30.06	\$62,530
★	Computer Network Support Specialists	\$27.95	\$58,150
★	Registered Nurses	\$38.81	\$80,730
★	Dental Hygienists	\$39.49	\$82,145
★	Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education	\$14.24	\$29,612
★	Paralegals and Legal Assistants	\$23.48	\$48,835
★	Respiratory Therapists	\$32.24	\$67,057
★	Civil Engineering Technologists and Technicians	\$29.77	\$61,921
★	Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	\$32.68	\$67,970
★	Radiologic Technologists and Technicians	\$30.26	\$62,951

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

★	General and Operations Managers	\$35.36	\$73,554
★	Construction Managers	\$46.98	\$97,724
★	Software Developers	\$58.32	\$121,294
★	Human Resources Specialists	\$29.59	\$61,544
★	Market Research Analysts and Marketing Specialists	\$27.02	\$56,211
★	Medical and Health Services Managers	\$47.70	\$99,210
★	Training and Development Specialists	\$20.99	\$43,649
★	Project Management Specialists	\$38.29	\$79,649
★	Financial Managers	\$50.87	\$105,803
★	Computer Systems Analysts	\$36.81	\$76,546

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.