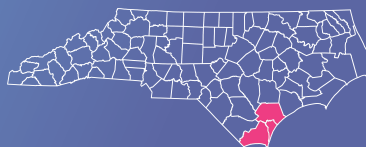


What are Star Jobs?

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.

WILMINGTON REGION



Brunswick | New Hanover | Pender



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	\$24.10	\$50,115
5	Lawyers	\$48.01	\$99,860
5	Nurse Practitioners	\$61.06	\$127,002
5	Pharmacists	\$64.90	\$134,990
5	Physician Assistants	\$60.65	\$126,159
5	Physical Therapists	\$41.35	\$86,002
5	Veterinarians	\$60.80	\$126,457
5	Speech-Language Pathologists	\$39.57	\$82,318
5	Nursing Instructors and Teachers, Postsecondary	SALARY POSITION	\$107,660
5	Health Specialties Teachers, Postsecondary	SALARY POSITION	\$85,651

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	\$31.32	\$65,160
★5	Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers	\$26.21	\$54,504
★5	Electricians	\$24.60	\$51,166
★5	Exercise Trainers and Group Fitness Instructors	\$21.74	\$45,226
★5	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$30.13	\$62,667
★5	Mobile Heavy Equipment Mechanics, Except Engines	\$30.14	\$62,705
★5	Chefs and Head Cooks	\$29.03	\$60,397
★5	Home Appliance Repairers	\$27.18	\$56,534
★4	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	\$17.66	\$36,741
★4	Construction Laborers	\$21.34	\$44,377

Postsecondary Training

		MEDIAN WAGE	
		Hourly	Annual
★5	Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	\$24.19	\$50,318
★5	First-Line Supervisors of Firefighting and Prevention Workers	\$31.57	\$65,650
★5	Massage Therapists	\$34.51	\$71,761
★4	Ophthalmic Medical Technicians	\$19.19	\$39,920
★4	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$23.59	\$49,068
★4	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	\$22.86	\$47,548
★4	Medical Assistants	\$19.17	\$39,866
★4	Hairdressers, Hairstylists, and Cosmetologists	\$17.16	\$35,680
★4	Computer User Support Specialists	\$28.69	\$59,685
★4	Dental Assistants	\$24.66	\$51,294

Associate's Degree

		MEDIAN WAGE	
		Hourly	Annual
★5	Registered Nurses	\$36.92	\$76,780
★5	Dental Hygienists	\$44.52	\$92,616
★5	Radiologic Technologists and Technicians	\$31.65	\$65,836
★5	Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	\$39.23	\$81,590
★5	Occupational Therapy Assistants	\$35.23	\$73,277
★5	Respiratory Therapists	\$38.43	\$79,931
★5	Physical Therapist Assistants	\$34.06	\$70,835
★4	Chemical Technicians	\$24.64	\$51,237
★4	Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists	\$38.47	\$80,020
★3	Architectural and Civil Drafters	\$30.22	\$62,869

Bachelor's Degree

		MEDIAN WAGE	
		Hourly	Annual
★5	General and Operations Managers	\$43.51	\$90,515
★5	Construction Managers	\$48.86	\$101,626
★5	Accountants and Auditors	\$35.16	\$73,116
★5	Software Developers	\$58.63	\$121,946
★5	Market Research Analysts and Marketing Specialists	\$33.04	\$68,741
★5	Human Resources Specialists	\$30.95	\$64,376
★5	Project Management Specialists	\$42.46	\$88,323
★5	Management Analysts	\$41.12	\$85,524
★5	Child, Family, and School Social Workers	\$30.40	\$63,233
★5	Financial Managers	\$64.52	\$134,202

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.