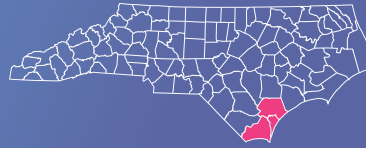


What are Star Jobs?

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.

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/star-jobs

Advanced Degree

	MEDIAN WAGE	
	Hourly	Annual
★ 5 Physical Therapists	\$41.35	\$86,002
★ 5 Lawyers	\$48.01	\$99,860
★ 5 Nurse Practitioners	\$61.06	\$127,002
★ 5 Kindergarten through Secondary Education Administrators	SALARY POSITION	\$80,672
★ 5 Veterinarians	\$60.80	\$126,457
★ 5 Postsecondary Biological Science Teachers	SALARY POSITION	\$103,121
★ 5 Postsecondary Computer Science Teachers	SALARY POSITION	\$90,145
★ 5 Statisticians	\$62.53	\$130,064
★ 4 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Social Workers	\$29.68	\$61,724
★ 4 Librarians and Media Collections Specialists	\$31.01	\$64,504

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.



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 Mechanics, Installers, and Repairers	\$32.42	\$67,436
★5	Food Service Managers	\$31.82	\$66,196
★5	Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Operators	\$40.52	\$84,289
★4	Real Estate Brokers	\$31.15	\$64,793
★4	Wholesale and Manufacturing Sales Representatives	\$28.73	\$59,775
★4	Electricians	\$24.60	\$51,166
★4	Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers	\$26.21	\$54,504
★4	Insurance Sales Agents	\$27.23	\$56,623
★4	Automotive Body and Related Repairers	\$24.88	\$51,743
★4	Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers	\$36.15	\$75,206

Postsecondary Training

MEDIAN WAGE

Hourly Annual

★5	Commercial Pilots	<small>SALARY POSITION</small>	\$133,140
★4	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	\$29.44	\$61,248
★4	Dental Assistants	\$24.66	\$51,294
★4	Surgical Technologists	\$29.69	\$61,753
★4	Captains, Mates, and Pilots of Water Vessels	\$28.91	\$60,133
★4	Commercial and Industrial Equipment Electrical and Electronics Repairers	\$32.59	\$67,775
★4	Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Programmers	\$35.57	\$73,974
★3	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$23.59	\$49,068
★3	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	\$22.86	\$47,548
★3	Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	\$24.19	\$50,318

Associate's Degree

MEDIAN WAGE

Hourly Annual

★5	Registered Nurses	\$36.92	\$76,780
★5	Dental Hygienists	\$44.52	\$92,616
★5	Physical Therapist Assistants	\$34.06	\$70,835
★5	Respiratory Therapists	\$38.43	\$79,931
★4	Architectural and Civil Drafters	\$30.22	\$62,869
★4	Medical Equipment Repairers	\$25.94	\$53,958
★3	Paralegals and Legal Assistants	\$22.81	\$47,440
★3	Chemical Technicians	\$24.64	\$51,237
★3	Radio, Cellular, and Tower Equipment Installers and Repairers	\$22.57	\$46,950
★3	Civil Engineering Technologists and Technicians	\$30.64	\$63,738

Bachelor's Degree

MEDIAN WAGE

Hourly Annual

★5	General and Operations Managers	\$43.51	\$90,515
★5	Accountants and Auditors	\$35.16	\$73,116
★5	Construction Managers	\$48.86	\$101,626
★5	Project Management Specialists	\$42.46	\$88,323
★5	Market Research Analysts and Marketing Specialists	\$33.04	\$68,741
★5	Sales Managers	\$57.89	\$120,425
★5	Civil Engineers	\$45.18	\$93,991
★5	Buyers and Purchasing Agents	\$32.25	\$67,066
★5	Wholesale and Manufacturing- Technical and Scientific Products Sales Representatives	\$42.56	\$88,519
★5	Data Scientists	\$47.14	\$98,042

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.