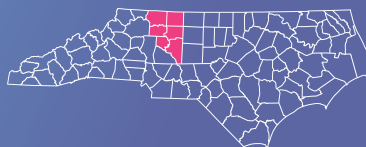


## What are Star Jobs?

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.

### WINSTON-SALEM REGION



Davidson | Davie | Forsyth  
Stokes | Surry | Yadkin



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	Pharmacists	\$66.81	\$138,952
5	Physician Assistants	\$64.16	\$133,444
5	Nurse Practitioners	\$64.75	\$134,675
5	Substance Abuse, Behavioral Disorder, and Mental Health Counselors	\$25.87	\$53,816
5	Physical Therapists	\$47.71	\$99,229
5	Speech-Language Pathologists	\$40.50	\$84,238
5	Nurse Anesthetists	\$115.25	\$239,731
5	Nursing Instructors and Teachers, Postsecondary	SALARY POSITION	\$81,732
5	Veterinarians	\$60.78	\$126,426
4	Healthcare Social Workers	\$31.03	\$64,544

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	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$29.57	\$61,506
★5	Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers	\$49.09	\$102,113
★5	Chefs and Head Cooks	\$28.63	\$59,536
★4	Construction Laborers	\$19.87	\$41,322
★4	Light Truck Drivers	\$18.35	\$38,168
★4	First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers	\$32.90	\$68,434
★4	Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	\$22.83	\$47,495
★4	Electricians	\$25.19	\$52,390
★4	Pharmacy Technicians	\$21.11	\$43,893
★4	Machinists	\$27.87	\$57,973

Postsecondary Training		MEDIAN WAGE	
		Hourly	Annual
★5	Surgical Technologists	\$28.95	\$60,209
★5	Massage Therapists	\$29.98	\$62,355
★4	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$24.14	\$50,193
★4	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	\$23.45	\$48,767
★4	Medical Assistants	\$20.61	\$42,871
★4	Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	\$24.93	\$51,858
★4	Medical Records Specialists	\$26.57	\$55,275
★4	Phlebotomists	\$18.69	\$38,876
★4	Psychiatric Technicians	\$18.89	\$39,304
★4	Aircraft Mechanics and Service Technicians	\$32.24	\$67,061

Associate's Degree		MEDIAN WAGE	
		Hourly	Annual
★5	Registered Nurses	\$40.52	\$84,282
★5	Radiologic Technologists and Technicians	\$36.20	\$75,284
★5	Respiratory Therapists	\$39.28	\$81,702
★5	Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	\$40.71	\$84,667
★5	Physical Therapist Assistants	\$30.45	\$63,329
★5	Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists	\$42.41	\$88,215
★5	Occupational Therapy Assistants	\$34.58	\$71,924
★4	Veterinary Technologists and Technicians	\$20.63	\$42,913
★4	Computer Network Support Specialists	\$37.66	\$78,325
★4	Electrical and Electronics Engineering Technologists and Technicians	\$25.22	\$52,462

Bachelor's Degree		MEDIAN WAGE	
		Hourly	Annual
★5	Construction Managers	\$50.87	\$105,800
★5	Software Developers	\$60.95	\$126,789
★5	Financial Managers	\$68.44	\$142,348
★5	Clinical Laboratory Technologists and Technicians	\$29.11	\$60,545
★5	Personal Financial Advisors	\$61.31	\$127,526
★5	Computer Systems Analysts	\$49.66	\$103,278
★5	Industrial Engineers	\$45.01	\$93,621
★5	Computer and Information Systems Managers	\$68.96	\$143,431
★5	Mechanical Engineers	\$41.87	\$87,074
★5	Civil Engineers	\$40.35	\$83,917

*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.*