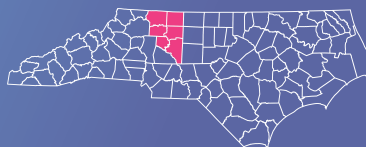


What are Star Jobs?

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.

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/star-jobs

Advanced Degree

| | | MEDIAN WAGE | |
|----|--|-----------------|-----------|
| | | Hourly | Annual |
| ★5 | Pharmacists | \$66.81 | \$138,952 |
| ★5 | Lawyers | \$59.11 | \$122,949 |
| ★5 | Nurse Practitioners | \$64.75 | \$134,675 |
| ★5 | Physical Therapists | \$47.71 | \$99,229 |
| ★5 | Postsecondary Education Administrators | \$45.87 | \$95,408 |
| ★5 | Veterinarians | \$60.78 | \$126,426 |
| ★5 | Clinical and Counseling Psychologists | \$39.33 | \$81,818 |
| ★5 | Postsecondary Computer Science Teachers | SALARY POSITION | \$84,951 |
| ★5 | Statisticians | \$46.51 | \$96,745 |
| ★4 | Substance Abuse, Behavioral Disorder, and Mental Health Counselors | \$25.87 | \$53,816 |

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 | Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers | \$35.07 | \$72,950 |
| ★5 | Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers | \$49.09 | \$102,113 |
| ★4 | Electricians | \$25.19 | \$52,390 |
| ★4 | Insurance Sales Agents | \$28.18 | \$58,613 |
| ★4 | Industrial Machinery Mechanics | \$29.57 | \$61,506 |
| ★4 | Machinists | \$27.87 | \$57,973 |
| ★4 | Food Service Managers | \$30.93 | \$64,336 |
| ★4 | Chefs and Head Cooks | \$28.63 | \$59,536 |
| ★4 | Mobile Heavy Equipment Mechanics | \$30.03 | \$62,472 |
| ★4 | Community Health Workers | \$25.64 | \$53,333 |

Postsecondary Training

MEDIAN WAGE

Hourly Annual

| | | | |
|----|--|---------|----------|
| ★5 | Powerhouse, Substation, and Relay Electrical and Electronics Repairers | \$38.58 | \$80,247 |
| ★4 | Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses | \$30.01 | \$62,418 |
| ★4 | Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers | \$24.93 | \$51,858 |
| ★4 | Medical Records Specialists | \$26.57 | \$55,275 |
| ★4 | Paramedics | \$25.14 | \$52,296 |
| ★4 | Aircraft Mechanics and Service Technicians | \$32.24 | \$67,061 |
| ★4 | Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Programmers | \$30.93 | \$64,348 |
| ★4 | Avionics Technicians | \$31.06 | \$64,623 |
| ★3 | Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | \$24.14 | \$50,193 |
| ★3 | Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics | \$23.45 | \$48,767 |

Associate's Degree

MEDIAN WAGE

Hourly Annual

| | | | |
|----|---|---------|----------|
| ★5 | Registered Nurses | \$40.52 | \$84,282 |
| ★5 | Radiologic Technologists and Technicians | \$36.20 | \$75,284 |
| ★5 | Diagnostic Medical Sonographers | \$40.71 | \$84,667 |
| ★4 | Physical Therapist Assistants | \$30.45 | \$63,329 |
| ★4 | Industrial Engineering Technologists and Technicians | \$29.90 | \$62,190 |
| ★4 | Architectural and Civil Drafters | \$29.32 | \$60,980 |
| ★4 | Medical Equipment Repairers | \$28.68 | \$59,654 |
| ★4 | Health Information Technologists and Medical Registrars | \$29.87 | \$62,118 |
| ★4 | Electrical and Electronic Engineering Technologists and Technicians | \$25.22 | \$52,462 |
| ★3 | Dental Hygienists | \$40.96 | \$85,215 |

Bachelor's Degree

MEDIAN WAGE

Hourly Annual

| | | | |
|----|---------------------------------|---------|-----------|
| ★5 | General and Operations Managers | \$47.64 | \$99,090 |
| ★5 | Construction Managers | \$50.87 | \$105,800 |
| ★5 | Project Management Specialists | \$39.01 | \$81,121 |
| ★5 | Buyers and Purchasing Agents | \$32.36 | \$67,311 |
| ★5 | Computer Systems Analysts | \$49.66 | \$103,278 |
| ★5 | Industrial Engineers | \$45.01 | \$93,621 |
| ★5 | Personal Financial Advisors | \$61.31 | \$127,526 |
| ★5 | Management Analysts | \$39.53 | \$82,218 |
| ★5 | Mechanical Engineers | \$41.87 | \$87,074 |
| ★5 | Data Scientists | \$47.42 | \$98,634 |

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.