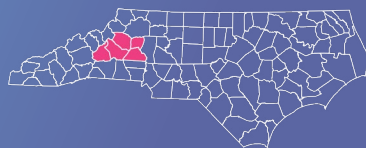


What are Star Jobs?

North Carolina's 5-Star Jobs represent occupations with the greatest projected employment potential through 2030. Occupations were rated from 1-5 stars based on wages, projected growth rates, and projected job openings.

HICKORY REGION



Alexander | Burke | Caldwell
Catawba | McDowell



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 | Nurse Anesthetists | \$102.49 | \$213,189 |
| ★5 | Physician Assistants | \$53.32 | \$110,905 |
| ★5 | Nurse Practitioners | \$51.02 | \$106,128 |
| ★5 | Veterinarians | \$48.05 | \$99,936 |
| ★5 | Physical Therapists | \$41.57 | \$86,458 |
| ★5 | Speech-Language Pathologists | \$35.21 | \$73,237 |
| ★5 | Mental Health and Substance Abuse Social Workers | \$31.01 | \$64,500 |
| ★4 | Psychiatrists | \$114.20 | \$237,538 |
| ★4 | Lawyers | \$38.46 | \$79,997 |
| ★4 | Clinical and Counseling Psychologists | \$37.83 | \$78,691 |

All wages are based on LEAD analysis of data of Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) 2022 Data released in May 2023.

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 | Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers | \$37.73 | \$78,486 |
| ★5 | First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers | \$29.26 | \$60,861 |
| ★5 | Food Service Managers | \$29.05 | \$60,429 |
| ★5 | First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers | \$28.92 | \$60,164 |
| ★5 | Industrial Machinery Mechanics | \$26.29 | \$54,685 |
| ★5 | Maintenance Workers, Machinery | \$23.63 | \$49,145 |
| ★5 | Carpenters | \$22.08 | \$45,928 |
| ★5 | Electricians | \$22.01 | \$45,787 |
| ★5 | Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers | \$21.73 | \$45,189 |
| ★5 | Electrical, Electronic, and Electromechanical Assemblers, Except Coil Winders, Tapers, and Finishers | \$21.29 | \$44,283 |

Postsecondary Training

MEDIAN WAGE

Hourly Annual

| | | | |
|----|---|-----------------|----------|
| ★5 | Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers | \$22.18 | \$46,135 |
| ★5 | Massage Therapists | \$24.22 | \$50,385 |
| ★4 | Commercial Pilots | SALARY POSITION | \$65,586 |
| ★4 | Tool and Die Makers | \$26.31 | \$54,720 |
| ★4 | Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses | \$24.22 | \$50,386 |
| ★4 | Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | \$24.16 | \$50,249 |
| ★4 | Computer User Support Specialists | \$23.58 | \$49,050 |
| ★4 | Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Programmers | \$23.30 | \$48,466 |
| ★4 | First-Line Supervisors of Firefighting and Prevention Workers | \$23.29 | \$48,448 |
| ★4 | Paramedics | \$22.46 | \$46,718 |

Associate's Degree

MEDIAN WAGE

Hourly Annual

| | | | |
|----|--|---------|----------|
| ★5 | Dental Hygienists | \$38.02 | \$79,083 |
| ★5 | Registered Nurses | \$31.72 | \$65,969 |
| ★5 | Occupational Therapy Assistants | \$30.31 | \$63,051 |
| ★5 | Physical Therapist Assistants | \$29.69 | \$61,753 |
| ★4 | Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists | \$35.44 | \$73,715 |
| ★4 | Computer Network Support Specialists | \$30.59 | \$63,632 |
| ★4 | Calibration Technologists and Technicians | \$29.18 | \$60,699 |
| ★4 | Mechanical Engineering Technologists and Technicians | \$27.34 | \$56,875 |
| ★4 | Industrial Engineering Technologists and Technicians | \$24.25 | \$50,431 |
| ★4 | Architectural and Civil Drafters | \$24.24 | \$50,428 |

Bachelor's Degree

MEDIAN WAGE

Hourly Annual

| | | | |
|----|---|---------|-----------|
| ★5 | Architectural and Engineering Managers | \$63.97 | \$133,061 |
| ★5 | Computer and Information Systems Managers | \$61.41 | \$127,725 |
| ★5 | Financial Managers | \$61.02 | \$126,915 |
| ★5 | Software Developers | \$55.09 | \$114,590 |
| ★5 | Electrical Engineers | \$48.53 | \$100,939 |
| ★5 | Industrial Production Managers | \$48.38 | \$100,640 |
| ★5 | Human Resources Managers | \$48.35 | \$100,571 |
| ★5 | Medical and Health Services Managers | \$48.05 | \$99,950 |
| ★5 | Personal Financial Advisors | \$39.75 | \$82,672 |
| ★5 | Civil Engineers | \$39.53 | \$82,222 |

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.