

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.

WAYNESVILLE-FRANKLIN REGION



Cherokee | Clay | Graham | Haywood
| Jackson | Macon | Swain



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
★	Pharmacists	\$62.47	\$129,948
★	Physician Assistants	\$54.64	\$113,647
★	Nurse Practitioners	\$51.11	\$106,312
★	Education Administrators, Postsecondary	\$49.22	\$102,376
★	Lawyers	\$45.08	\$93,759
★	Physical Therapists	\$42.43	\$88,263
★	Speech-Language Pathologists	\$36.25	\$75,406
★	Education Teachers, Postsecondary	SALARY POSITION	\$66,068
★	Health Specialties Teachers, Postsecondary	SALARY POSITION	\$65,655
★	Art, Drama, and Music Teachers, Postsecondary	SALARY POSITION	\$64,971

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

★	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$31.66	\$65,846
★	Food Service Managers	\$29.77	\$61,918
★	First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers	\$29.26	\$60,861
★	Chefs and Head Cooks	\$28.81	\$59,928
★	First-Line Supervisors of Mechanics, Installers, and Repairers	\$28.37	\$59,010
★	First-Line Supervisors of Police and Detectives	\$27.62	\$57,454
★	Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products	\$26.10	\$54,289
★	Sales Representatives of Services, Except Advertising, Insurance, Financial Services, and Travel	\$25.21	\$52,446
★	Electricians	\$21.82	\$45,384
★	Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators	\$20.00	\$41,600

Postsecondary Training

MEDIAN WAGE

Hourly Annual

★	Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	\$22.46	\$46,722
★	Electrical and Electronics Repairers, Commercial and Industrial Equipment	\$38.64	\$80,376
★	Telecommunications Equipment Installers and Repairers, Except Line Installers	\$31.37	\$65,244
★	Medical Records Specialists	\$22.87	\$47,570
★	Massage Therapists	\$22.59	\$46,986
★	First-Line Supervisors of Firefighting and Prevention Workers	\$22.59	\$46,981
★	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$21.44	\$44,601
★	Paramedics	\$18.93	\$39,367
★	Tutors	\$18.25	\$37,964
★	Emergency Medical Technicians	\$18.22	\$37,898

Associate's Degree

MEDIAN WAGE

Hourly Annual

★	Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	\$37.54	\$78,093
★	Registered Nurses	\$32.38	\$67,348
★	Physical Therapist Assistants	\$30.39	\$63,212
★	Respiratory Therapists	\$28.32	\$58,899
★	Dental Hygienists	\$37.25	\$77,481
★	Occupational Therapy Assistants	\$30.38	\$63,195
★	Architectural and Civil Drafters	\$27.00	\$56,160
★	Computer Network Support Specialists	\$25.57	\$53,175
★	Medical Equipment Repairers	\$24.42	\$50,804
★	Paralegals and Legal Assistants	\$22.03	\$45,827

Bachelor's Degree

MEDIAN WAGE

Hourly Annual

★	Marketing Managers	\$51.43	\$106,974
★	Software Developers	\$51.28	\$106,665
★	Financial Managers	\$48.25	\$100,358
★	Computer and Information Systems Managers	\$47.24	\$98,261
★	Medical and Health Services Managers	\$46.58	\$96,879
★	Human Resources Managers	\$44.55	\$92,656
★	Industrial Engineers	\$41.48	\$86,270
★	Civil Engineers	\$40.53	\$84,310
★	Management Analysts	\$40.30	\$83,819
★	Mechanical Engineers	\$37.48	\$77,957

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.