

NORTH CAROLINA'S 5-STAR OCCUPATION RATINGS FOR 2019

The 5-star occupation ratings simplify occupational information and provide an easy way to assess and compare occupations for long-term career planning. The ratings give each occupation a rating of between 1 and 5 stars. Occupations with 5 stars are considered to have much better career prospects than occupations with fewer stars. There is an overall rating of 1 to 5 stars for each occupation, and a separate rating for each of the following three criteria:

- **Wages:** based on the 2018 Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) data release
- **Growth Rate:** number of projected employment relative to the number of 2017 employment
- **Openings:** number of projected openings due to growth, transfers, and exits between 2017 - 2026

Overall Ratings:

Stars	Prospects	Characteristics
5	Best	Growing (rate and openings) jobs that have above median wages.
4	Very Good	Growing jobs that generally have at least median wages.
3	Good	Generally above average in at least 2 of the 3 criteria.
2	Fair	Generally low wage or low growth (rate and openings).
1	Poor	Typically, low wage and low growth (rate and openings).

There may be adjustments to the ratings based on knowledge of the labor market. The following occupations were not rated:

- Occupations with 2026 projected employment below 500, the minimum size threshold statewide.
- "All Other" titles (such as Cooks, All Other): these represent occupations with a wide range of characteristics that do not fit in with closely related detailed occupations.
- Difficult-to-project occupations such as Clergy and Directors, Religious Activities and Education, and Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers.

The methodology will be done separately to define the 5-star occupation ratings for Prosperity Zone sub-regions. This methodology follows a similar method as the statewide rankings above, and utilizes the state value for growth rate and regional values for wages and openings to feed into the overall rating. Minimum size thresholds for assigning a rating vary by Prosperity Zone sub-regions.

Please note that while the 5-star occupation ratings are intended to help guide career planning, they do not necessarily indicate which occupation is the best fit for an individual. No rating system can address all the important considerations that go into choosing a career, including personal preferences and abilities.

For more information about 5-Star Occupation Ratings, please contact LEAD@nccommerce.com.