



Alleghany | Ashe | Avery | Mitchell
Watauga | Wilkes | Yancey

High School and Work Experience

	Median Hourly Wage	Median Annual Wage
★ Managers of Construction Trades & Extraction Workers	\$27.94	\$58,119
★ Managers of Mechanics, Installers, & Repairers	\$27.71	\$57,630
★ Food Service Managers	\$26.21	\$54,516
★ Insurance Sales Agents	\$22.06 ⁱ	\$45,879 ⁱ
★ Property, Real Estate, & Community Assoc Managers	\$28.65	\$59,596
★ Managers of Landscaping & Groundskeeping Workers	\$20.08	\$41,769
★ Electrical Power-Line Installers & Repairers	\$32.41	\$67,407
★ Customer Service Reps.	\$14.34	\$29,818
★ Managers of Retail Sales Workers	\$18.01	\$37,453
★ Managers of Food Prep & Serving Workers	\$14.53	\$30,231

Associate Degree

	Median Hourly Wage	Median Annual Wage
★ Paralegals & Legal Assistants	\$14.83	\$30,842
★ Clinical Lab Technologists & Techs	\$25.00	\$52,003
★ Physical Therapist Assistants	\$31.93	\$66,413
★ Respiratory Therapists	\$26.99	\$56,138
★ Occupational Therapy Assistants	\$35.85	\$74,563
★ Computer Network Support Specialists	\$28.31	\$58,881
★ Web Developers	\$29.79	\$61,955
★ Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	\$28.77	\$59,835
★ Dental Hygienists	\$30.88	\$64,222
★ Morticians, Undertakers, & Funeral Directors	\$16.31 ⁱ	\$33,924 ⁱ

Advanced Degree

	Median Hourly Wage	Median Annual Wage
★ Health Specialties Teachers, Postsecondary	N/A	\$69,395
★ Pharmacists	\$59.94	\$124,677
★ Business Teachers, Postsecondary	N/A	\$67,043
★ Physical Therapists	\$45.13	\$93,869
★ Nursing Instructors & Teachers, Postsecondary	N/A	\$57,586 ⁱ
★ Physician Assistants	\$43.00	\$89,443
★ Nurse Practitioners	\$44.02	\$91,558
★ Speech-Language Pathologists	\$45.77	\$95,208
★ Occupational Therapists	\$37.35	\$77,697
★ Educational, Guidance, School, & Vocational Counselors	\$24.89	\$51,777

Postsecondary Training

	Median Hourly Wage	Median Annual Wage
★ HVAC & Refrigeration Mechanics & Installers	\$22.42	\$46,626
★ Computer User Support Specialists	\$23.80	\$49,501
★ Massage Therapists	\$17.75 ⁱ	\$36,919 ⁱ
★ Medical Assistants	\$15.42	\$32,074
★ Firefighters	\$13.36	\$27,789
★ Emergency Medical Techs & Paramedics	\$17.00	\$35,361
★ Medical Records & Health Info Techs	\$20.20	\$42,009
★ Surgical Technologists	\$18.75 ⁱ	\$38,990 ⁱ
★ Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$18.96	\$39,429
★ Automotive Service Techs & Mechanics	\$13.11	\$27,271

Bachelor's Degree

	Median Hourly Wage	Median Annual Wage
★ Registered Nurses	\$27.92	\$58,084
★ General & Operations Managers	\$40.68	\$84,610
★ Accountants & Auditors	\$29.44	\$61,241
★ Child, Family, & School Social Workers	\$20.00	\$41,604
★ Market Research Analysts & Marketing Specialists	\$27.45	\$57,098
★ Construction Managers	\$47.37	\$98,530
★ Financial Managers	\$38.85	\$80,813
★ Sub. Abuse, Behavioral Disorder, & Mental Hlth Counselors	\$23.32	\$48,502
★ Software Developers, Apps	\$36.98	\$76,910
★ Medical & Health Services Managers	\$41.97	\$87,296

All wage information (except where noted) is Regional Median Hourly and Annual Wage data which was calculated based on 2019 release of the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) program of the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The OES program produces employment and wage estimates annually for more than 800 occupations for the U.S., individual states, and metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas; National occupational estimates for specific industries are also available.

i. Prosperity Zone Median Wage

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.

What are Star Jobs?

North Carolina's 5-Star Jobs represent occupations with the greatest projected employment potential through 2026. Occupations were rated from 1-5 stars based on wages, projected growth rates, and projected job openings. For a complete list of Star Jobs and explanation of the rating process, visit www.nccommerce.com/data-tools-reports/labor-market-data-tools/employment-projections#star-jobs



NC DEPARTMENT
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