

NORTH CAROLINA

Top 15 Star Jobs

Top careers with high wages and employment growth by education requirements

Advanced Degree

		Median Hourly Wage	Median Annual Wage
★	Health Specialties Teachers, Postsecondary	N/A	\$105,520
★	Lawyers	\$47.79	\$99,400
★	Pharmacists	\$61.18	\$127,250
★	Healthcare Social Workers	\$25.77	\$53,600
★	Physical Therapists	\$41.64	\$86,600
★	Physician Assistants	\$49.13	\$102,180
★	Medical Scientists, Except Epidemiologists	\$42.64	\$88,690
★	Nurse Practitioners	\$48.82	\$101,540
★	Business Teachers, Postsecondary	N/A	\$72,920
★	Speech-Language Pathologists	\$35.22	\$73,250
★	Occupational Therapists	\$40.72	\$84,700
★	Veterinarians	\$44.02	\$91,550
★	Nursing Instructors & Teachers, Postsecondary	N/A	\$64,520
★	Statisticians	\$46.29	\$96,290
★	Dentists, General	\$94.08	\$195,680

All wage information is State 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.

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



For more information on North Carolina careers go to:

- NCCareers.org
- [@CareersinNC](https://twitter.com/CareersinNC)
- lead@nccommerce.com



NC DEPARTMENT
of COMMERCE
LABOR & ECONOMIC
ANALYSIS

NORTH CAROLINA
STAR JOBS
TOP 15 BY EDUCATION
2019



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High School & Work Experience		Median Hourly Wage	Median Annual Wage
★	Sales Reps., Wholesale & Mfg., Exc. Tech. & Scientific Products	\$28.81	\$59,920
★	Managers of Construction Trades & Extraction Workers	\$28.39	\$59,040
★	Managers of Mechanics, Installers, & Repairers	\$30.59	\$63,620
★	Insurance Sales Agents	\$23.77	\$49,440
★	Food Service Managers	\$26.91	\$55,980
★	Property, Real Estate, & Community Assoc Managers	\$26.27	\$54,630
★	Managers of Landscaping & Groundskeeping Workers	\$23.96	\$49,830
★	Electrical Power-Line Installers & Repairers	\$28.70	\$59,690
★	Customer Service Representatives	\$15.82	\$32,910
★	Managers of Retail Sales Workers	\$19.26	\$40,050
★	Managers of Food Prep & Serving Workers	\$15.31	\$31,850
★	Maintenance & Repair Workers, General	\$18.22	\$37,890
★	Managers of Office & Administrative Support Workers	\$25.57	\$53,190
★	Carpenters	\$17.49	\$36,370
★	Fitness Trainers & Aerobics Instructors	\$16.50	\$34,310

Postsecondary Training		Median Hourly Wage	Median Annual Wage
★	Computer User Support Specialists	\$23.22	\$48,290
★	Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$20.26	\$42,140
★	Automotive Service Techs & Mechanics	\$18.94	\$39,390
★	Medical Assistants	\$15.73	\$32,710
★	HVAC & Refrigeration Mechanics & Installers	\$20.11	\$41,820
★	Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	\$21.55	\$44,830
★	Firefighters	\$15.67	\$32,590
★	Dental Assistants	\$20.03	\$41,660
★	Phlebotomists	\$15.24	\$31,700
★	Emergency Medical Techs & Paramedics	\$16.96	\$35,280
★	Massage Therapists	\$19.03	\$39,590
★	Medical Records & Health Info Techs	\$17.75	\$36,930
★	Surgical Technologists	\$20.82	\$43,300
★	A/V Equipment Techs	\$19.05	\$39,620
★	CNC Machine Tool Programmers, Metal & Plastic	\$22.19	\$46,150

Associate Degree		Median Hourly Wage	Median Annual Wage
★	Paralegals & Legal Assistants	\$20.93	\$43,530
★	Radiologic Technologists	\$27.49	\$57,180
★	Dental Hygienists	\$34.00	\$70,720
★	Computer Network Support Specialists	\$29.24	\$60,820
★	Physical Therapist Assistants	\$28.89	\$60,100
★	Web Developers	\$32.94	\$68,520
★	Respiratory Therapists	\$27.12	\$56,410
★	Occupational Therapy Assistants	\$31.20	\$64,890
★	Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	\$32.18	\$66,930
★	Clinical Lab Technologists & Techs	\$24.02	\$49,950
★	Veterinary Technologists & Techs	\$15.67	\$32,600
★	Architectural & Civil Drafters	\$24.64	\$51,260
★	Medical Equipment Repairers	\$25.85	\$53,760
★	Environmental Science & Protection Techs, Including Health	\$19.70	\$40,990
★	Mechanical Drafters	\$24.96	\$51,910

Bachelor's Degree		Median Hourly Wage	Median Annual Wage
★	Registered Nurses	\$30.26	\$62,940
★	General & Operations Managers	\$52.29	\$108,750
★	Accountants & Auditors	\$33.58	\$69,840
★	Software Developers, Apps	\$48.35	\$100,560
★	Market Research Analysts & Marketing Specialists	\$29.99	\$62,370
★	Management Analysts	\$40.24	\$83,700
★	Computer Systems Analysts	\$43.38	\$90,230
★	Financial Managers	\$63.28	\$131,610
★	Sales Reps., Wholesale & Mfg., Tech. & Scientific Products	\$41.88	\$87,110
★	Construction Managers	\$46.77	\$97,290
★	Loan Officers	\$29.98	\$62,360
★	Child, Family, & School Social Workers	\$22.23	\$46,240
★	Computer & Info Systems Managers	\$65.26	\$135,740
★	Securities, Commodities, & Financial Services Sales Agents	\$29.98	\$62,360
★	Training & Development Specialists	\$28.92	\$60,150