



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

High School and Work Experience		Median Hourly Wage	Median Annual Wage
★5	Managers of Construction Trades & Extraction Workers	\$25.62	\$53,279
★5	Sales Reps., Wholesale & Mfg., Exc. Tech. & Scientific Prod.	\$22.72	\$47,257
★5	Helpers--Production Workers	\$14.97	\$31,134
★5	Managers of Mechanics, Installers, & Repairers	\$25.12	\$52,258
★5	Food Service Managers	\$27.49	\$57,182
★5	Insurance Sales Agents	\$33.82	\$70,336
★5	Managers of Landscaping & Groundskeeping Workers	\$25.04	\$52,079
★5	Electrical Power-Line Installers & Repairers	\$35.50	\$73,845
★4	Managers of Retail Sales Workers	\$18.17	\$37,784
★4	Managers of Food Prep & Serving Workers	\$16.80	\$34,943

Associate Degree		Median Hourly Wage	Median Annual Wage
★5	Physical Therapist Assistants	\$25.34	\$52,709
★4	Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education	\$13.50	\$28,090
★4	Computer Network Support Specialists	\$24.01	\$49,950
★3	Clinical Lab Technologists & Techs	\$22.81	\$47,441
★3	Radiologic Technologists	\$24.14	\$50,219
★3	Morticians, Undertakers, & Funeral Directors	\$33.69	\$70,065
★3	Industrial Engineering Techs	\$22.97	\$47,774
★3	Electrical & Electronics Engineering Techs	\$24.33	\$50,612

Note: There are fewer than 10 examples of occupations that require an Associate Degree for entry and have a star rating of 3 or above.

Advanced Degree		Median Hourly Wage	Median Annual Wage
★5	Health Specialties Teachers, Postsecondary	N/A	\$61,456
★5	Business Teachers, Postsecondary	N/A	\$93,322
★5	Physical Therapists	\$41.25	\$85,810
★5	Physician Assistants	\$43.31	\$90,090
★5	Nursing Instructors & Teachers, Postsecondary	N/A	\$64,487
★5	Nurse Practitioners	\$46.81	\$97,367
★5	Speech-Language Pathologists	\$36.19	\$75,267
★4	Educational, Guidance, School, & Vocational Counselors	\$21.30	\$44,313
★4	Education Admin., Elementary & Secondary School	N/A	\$64,669
★4	Librarians	\$24.95	\$51,899

Postsecondary Training		Median Hourly Wage	Median Annual Wage
★5	Computer User Support Specialists	\$20.91	\$43,503
★4	Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$17.34	\$36,071
★4	Automotive Service Techs & Mechanics	\$17.89	\$37,209
★4	Medical Assistants	\$14.45	\$30,054
★4	Emergency Medical Techs & Paramedics	\$17.25	\$35,882
★4	Managers of Fire Fighting & Prevention Workers	\$27.05	\$56,272
★3	Firefighters	\$13.87	\$28,850
★3	Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	\$21.36	\$44,428
★3	Library Techs	\$14.92	\$31,031
★3	Phlebotomists	\$13.18	\$27,420

Bachelor's Degree		Median Hourly Wage	Median Annual Wage
★4	Registered Nurses	\$28.50	\$59,271
★4	General & Operations Managers	\$40.08	\$83,364
★4	Accountants & Auditors	\$27.99	\$58,222
★4	Child, Family, & School Social Workers	\$19.82	\$41,229
★4	Loan Officers	\$22.48	\$46,758
★4	Market Research Analysts & Marketing Specialists	\$19.04	\$39,605
★4	Construction Managers	\$37.10	\$77,176
★4	Financial Managers	\$43.15	\$89,757
★4	Management Analysts	\$28.68	\$59,655
★4	Software Developers, Apps	\$34.01	\$70,732

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.

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



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