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NORTH CAROLINA'S 5-STAR OCCUPATION RATINGS

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 2016 Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) data release
- **Growth Rate:** number of projected employment relative to the number of 2014 employment
- **Openings:** number of projected openings due to growth and replacements between 2014 - 2024

Overall Ratings:

Stars	Prospects	Characteristics
5	Best	Faster (rate) and larger (openings) growth than at least half of the occupations. Pays above the state median annual wage of \$33,100.
4	Very Good	Growth (rate and openings) and wages mostly above half of the occupations, and are all above at least 20% of all occupations.
3	Good	May have a criterion below average. It will not have the lowest values (lowest decile or 10%) of growth or wage.
2	Fair	May have one or more criteria among the lowest values.
1	Poor	Neither growth nor wages are above at least half of the occupations.

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

- Occupations with 2024 projected employment below 450, 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 was done separately to define the 5-star occupation ratings for Prosperity Zones 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 numeric growth 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.