

Rankings

2019

Asheville named one of the Top 25 Best Cities for Manufacturing Jobs — Kempler Industries, 2019

Asheville ranked 14 among the “Top 100 Best Places to Live” in the United States — Livability.com, 2019

2018

North Carolina ranked #1 among the “Best States for Business” — Forbes.com, 2018

Asheville ranked as one of the top 15 “Best Places For Business and Careers” — Forbes.com, 2018

Asheville named #1 “Foodie City” in the world by The Trazees Awards — Global Traveler, July 2018

Asheville ranked as one of the top 10 music cities in the U.S. — National Geographic Traveler, May 2018

Population	2010	2018	% Change
Asheville City	83,393	92,452	10.9%
Buncombe County	238,318	259,103	8.7%
Asheville MSA	424,858	459,585	8.2%
North Carolina	9,535,483	10,383,620	8.9%

Cost of Living Index - All Items

National Average	100
Asheville, NC	100.4
Charlotte, NC	98.2
Raleigh, NC	94.5
New York, NY	238.4
Atlanta, GA	102.3
Charleston, SC	96.2
Nashville, TN	101.3

Income

	Avg. House	Median House
Asheville MSA	\$65,633	\$48,159
Buncombe County	\$68,070	\$48,464
North Carolina	\$70,523	\$50,320
United States	\$81,283	\$57,652

Taxes

Current Sales Tax Rate (Buncombe)	7.00%
NC Individual Income Tax Rate	5.25%
NC Corporate Income Tax Rate	2.5%

Average Housing Costs

2017 - \$300,227	Closed Sales - 7,491
2018 - \$317,502	Closed Sales - 7,259

Average Rent Costs

2018 Average Rental for a 2 bedroom apartment	\$1,169
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Crime Rates per 1,000 People

	Violent Offenses	Property Offenses
Asheville MSA	1.98/1,000	21.05/1,000
North Carolina	3.02/1,000	24.21/1,000
United States	3.75/1,000	24.21/1,000

Residential Housing

	2017	2018
New Building Permits	2,768	2,998
Value of New Permits	\$557.5M	\$600M

Education

K-12 Public Schools

Asheville City	4,421
Buncombe County	24,033

Colleges / Universities

UNC Asheville	3,852
Warren Wilson College	661
Montreat College	917
Asheville-Buncombe Technical	7,262
South College	303
Western Carolina University	11,034
Mars Hill University	1,277
Haywood Community College	1,344
Blue Ridge Community College	2,122
Lenoir-Rhyne University	2,557

Student Enrollment

Major Industry Employment ≥ 10%

	% of Total
Education & Health Services	20%
Leisure & Hospitality	15%
Government	14%
Retail Trade	14%
Manufacturing	12%
Professional & Business Services	10%

Climate

	Avg. Min °F	Avg. Max °F		Avg. Min °F	Avg. Max °F
January	35.5	52.9	July	65.0	86.0
February	34.4	60.8	August	63.9	81.7
March	37.3	59.3	September	56.1	78.2
April	50.1	71.2	October	47.5	71.3
May	54.2	75.2	November	38.6	61.0
June	60.8	80.5	December	31.4	49.2

Transportation

Airport	Asheville Regional Airport
Interstate Highways	I-26; I-40; I-240
US Highways	US 19/23; 25; 25A; 70; 74
Local Bus Service	Asheville Transit System - 16 Routes
Railroad	Norfolk Southern - 3,600 Miles
Motor Freight	At least 30 Motor Freight Carriers in Asheville

More Research Reports at: AshevilleChamber.org/Research-Economy/