

**Rankings**

**2019**

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

	Student Enrollment
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

**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
February	34.4	60.8	August	63.9
March	37.3	59.3	September	56.1
April	50.1	71.2	October	47.5
May	54.2	75.2	November	38.6
June	60.8	80.5	December	31.4

**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

Updated: August 2019

More Research Reports at: [AshevilleChamber.org/Research-Economy/](http://AshevilleChamber.org/Research-Economy/)