

**Rankings**

2020

Asheville ranked one of "The Best Places to Retire in 2020" — Forbes.com, 2020

Asheville ranked 5 of the Top 50 of "America's Best Small Cities" — BestCities.org, 2020

Buncombe County named "One of the Best Counties in North Carolina for Small Business" — SmartAsset.com, 2020

North Carolina ranked as the #1 "Best States For Business" for 3rd year in a row — Forbes.com, 2020

Asheville ranked 3 of the Top 50 Best Places to Travel in 2020 — Travel + Leisure, 2020

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	100.5
Charlotte, NC	97.9
Raleigh, NC	95.1
New York, NY	237.4
Atlanta, GA	102.4
Charleston, SC	96.9
Nashville, TN	98.5

**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**

2018 - \$317,372	Closed Sales - 7,275
2019 - \$333,147	Closed Sales - 7,721
2018 Average Rental for a 2 bedroom apartment	\$1,169

**Residential Housing**

	2018	2019
New Building Permits	2,559	2,678
Value of New Permits	\$602.9M	\$641.2M

**Crime Rates per 1,000 People**

	Violent Offenses	Property Offenses
Asheville MSA	2.66/1,000	22.04/1,000
North Carolina	3.78/1,000	24.21/1,000
United States	3.81/1,000	21.99/1,000

**Education**

**K-12 Public Schools**

Asheville City	4,297
Buncombe County	23,415

**Colleges / Universities**

UNC Asheville	3,600
Warren Wilson College	791
Montreat College	930
Asheville-Buncombe Technical	7,003
South College	303
Western Carolina University	12,167
Mars Hill University	1,066
Haywood Community College	1,632
Blue Ridge Community College	2,332
Lenoir-Rhyne University	2,742

**Student Enrollment**

**Major Industry Employment ≥ 10%**

	% of Total
Education & Health Services	20%
Leisure & Hospitality	14%
Retail Trade	14%
Government	13%
Manufacturing	12%
Professional & Business Services	10%

**Climate**

	Avg. Min °F	Avg. Max °F		Avg. Min °F	Avg. Max °F
January	26.7	46.9	July	61.2	83.2
February	34.2	56.4	August	60.0	82.1
March	33.2	57.6	September	56.8	84.1
April	43.5	70.4	October	47.3	70.5
May	53.0	78.5	November	30.9	56.7
June	57.3	79.1	December	30.6	53.6

**Transportation**

Airport	Asheville Regional Airport
	Over 20 Non-Stop Destination Flights
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: September 2020

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