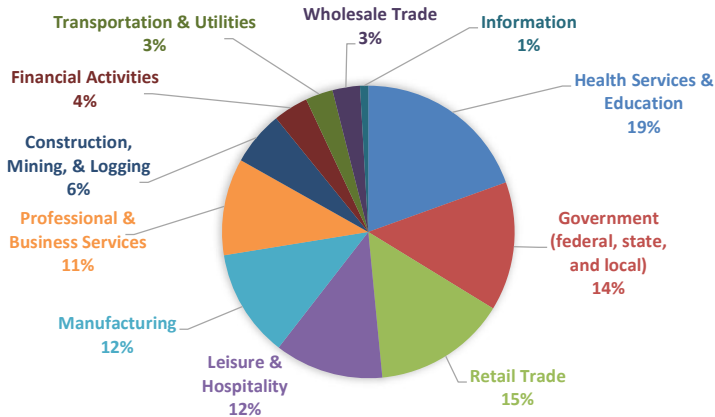




**Major Industry Employment Distribution Asheville MSA
December 2020**



- Employment distribution shifted in the Asheville Metro over the course of the year. January 2020, Leisure & Hospitality was the second largest sector but shifted to fourth by December.
- Asheville Metro's December unemployment rate was 5.5 percent with an estimated 12,500 unemployed. December year-over-year, the labor force contracted meaning workers left the workforce. The unemployment rate averaged 7.6 percent for 2020 in combination with an overall decline in the workforce.

	Monthly Data					
Unemployment Rate %	Dec 2019	Dec 2020	Change	AVG Y-T-D 2019	AVG Y-T-D 2020	Change
Asheville City	2.6	5.9	3.3	3.0	9.1	6.1
Buncombe County	2.6	5.6	3.0	3.0	8.0	5.0
Haywood County	2.9	5.6	2.7	3.4	7.4	4.0
Henderson County	2.8	5.2	2.4	3.3	6.7	4.4
Madison County	3.0	5.5	2.5	3.7	6.7	4.0
Asheville Metro*	2.7	5.5	2.8	3.1	7.6	4.5
North Carolina	3.3	6.0	2.7	3.9	7.1	4.2
United States	3.4	6.5	3.1	3.7	8.1	4.4
Total Employment (Asheville Metro)	Dec 2019	Dec 2020	% Change	AVG Y-T-D 2019	AVG Y-T-D 2020	% Change
Total Employment (nonfarm)	199,900	183,200	-8.4%	198,783	181,158	-8.9%
Major Industry Employment (Asheville Metro)	Dec 2019	Dec 2020	% Change	AVG Y-T-D 2019	AVG Y-T-D 2020	% Change
Construction, Mining, & Logging	10,100	10,500	4.0%	10,158	10,183	0.2%
Manufacturing	22,300	20,800	-6.7%	22,183	20,825	-6.1%
Wholesale Trade	5,200	5,300	1.9%	5,225	5,225	0.0%
Retail Trade	26,200	25,700	-1.9%	26,150	24,492	-6.3%
Transportation & Utilities	5,600	6,000	7.1%	5,242	5,308	1.3%
Information	2,000	1,600	-20.0%	1,917	1,550	-19.1%
Financial Activities	6,700	6,700	0.0%	6,583	6,625	0.6%
Professional & Business Services	18,100	18,700	3.3%	18,508	17,733	-4.2%
Health Services & Education	38,200	34,000	-11.0%	37,917	34,592	-8.8%
Leisure & Hospitality	29,600	21,000	-29.1%	30,158	21,758	-27.9%
Government (federal, state, and local)	26,600	24,900	-6.4%	25,592	24,700	-3.5%
Residential Activity (Asheville Metro)	Dec 2019	Dec 2020	% Change	Y-T-D 2019	Y-T-D 2020	% Change
Closed Sales	650	844	29.8%	7,742	8,480	9.5%
Average Price of Homes Sold	\$352,971	\$424,394	20.2%	\$333,108	\$376,305	13.0%
Median Price of Homes Sold	\$287,795	\$340,000	18.1%	\$282,500	\$315,000	11.5%
Days on Market Until Sale	70	51	-27.1%	67	59	-11.9%
Airport Activity	Dec 2019	Dec 2020	% Change	Y-T-D 2019	Y-T-D 2020	% Change
Total Passengers	141,343	59,772	-57.7%	1,616,762	704,972	-56.4%
Building Permits (Asheville Metro)	Dec 2019	Dec 2020	% Change	Y-T-D 2019	Y-T-D 2020	% Change
New Residential Permits (total units)	167	243	45.5%	2678	3222	20.3%
Value of New Residential Permits	\$44,612,000	\$69,281,000	55.3%	\$641,158,000	\$721,034,000	12.5%
	Last Available Data					
Tourism (Buncombe County)	Nov 2019	Nov 2020	% Change	Y-T-D 2019	Y-T-D 2020	% Change
Lodging Sales	\$42,002,121	\$36,314,827	-13.5%	\$401,577,524	\$288,691,947	-28.1%

*Asheville Metro Area is comprised of Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson and Madison counties.

Sources: US Bureau of Labor Statistics, US Census Bureau, NC Dept of Commerce, Carolina Realtors, Asheville Regional Airport, Asheville CVB.

Contact EDC Research at (828)-258-6120 or (828)-258-6114 for more information.

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