

Rankings

2021
 Asheville is 14th in "Best Places to Retire" —U.S. News and World Report, 2021
 Asheville is 4th in "Best Places to Live in North Carolina" —U.S. News and World Report, 2021
 Asheville ranked #19 on the "Top 100 Best Places to Live in the U.S." — livability.com, 2021
 Asheville's River Arts District named one of the "hippest neighborhoods to hang out in" — msn.com, 2021
 Asheville ranked one of "The Best Places to Retire in 2021" — Forbes.com, 2021
 Asheville ranked as the "Most Beautiful Small City" in North Carolina — msn.com, 2021

Population	2010	2020	% Change
Asheville City	81,970	92,328	13%
Buncombe County	233,249	259,576	11%
Asheville MSA	416,276	459,344	10%
North Carolina	9,271,178	10,386,227	12%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year Estimates

Cost of Living Index - All Items

National Average	100
Asheville, NC	106.2
Charlotte, NC	94.8
Raleigh, NC	92.9
New York, NY	255
Atlanta, GA	105
Charleston, SC	99.7
Nashville, TN	95.4

Source: C2ER Cost of Living Index, 2021

Household Income	Avg.	Median
Asheville MSA	\$75,637	\$54,992
Buncombe County	\$78,942	\$55,032
North Carolina	\$79,620	\$56,642
United States	\$91,547	\$64,994

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates

Taxes

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

Sources: Buncombe County Tax Department; NC Department of Revenue

Average Home Sale Price

2020 - \$379,410	Closed Sales - 9,257
2021 - \$453,064	Closed Sales - 10,254

Source: Canopy MLS, for Asheville MSA

Estimated Median Rent

2021 - 2 bedroom apartment	\$1,050
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Source: Apartmentlist.com, for Asheville MSA

Crime Rates per 1,000 People

	Violent Offenses	Property Offenses
Asheville MSA	3.17/1,000	26.34/1,000
North Carolina	4.19/1,000	22.27/1,000
United States	3.98/1,000	19.58/1,000

Source: FBI Uniform Crime Reporting, 2020

New Residential Housing

	2020	2021
New Building Permits	3,432	4,238
Value of New Permits	\$799M	\$1.13B

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, for Asheville MSA

Education

K-12 Public Schools

	Student Enrollment
Asheville City	4,300
Buncombe County	22,298

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, CCD, 2020-2021 school year

Colleges / Universities

UNC Asheville	3,363
Warren Wilson College	703
Montreat College	950
Asheville-Buncombe Technical	6,601
Mars Hill University	1,049
Haywood Community College	1,440
Blue Ridge Community College	2,399
Lenoir-Rhyne University*	2,686
Western Carolina University*	12,243

*satellite location in Asheville
 Source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS, Fall 2020

Major Industry Employment ≥ 10%

	% of Total*
Education & Health Services	19%
Leisure & Hospitality	14%
Retail Trade	13%
Government	14%
Manufacturing	11%
Professional & Business Services	10%

*Total Nonfarm Employment of 192,700
 Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Annual Average 2021

Climate

	Avg. Min °F	Avg. Max °F	Avg. Min °F	Avg. Max °F
January	28.6	48.9	July	64.9
February	31.2	52.9	August	64.0
March	37.0	59.8	September	57.9
April	44.6	69.4	October	46.2
May	57.4	76.3	November	36.1
June	61.1	82.5	December	31.3

Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 1991-2020 Normals

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 - 18 Routes
Railroad	Norfolk Southern, Blue Ridge Southern
Motor Freight	At least 30 Motor Freight Carriers in Asheville

Updated: June 2022

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