

Select Rankings

Asheville placed 9th on the list of "The Best Cities in the US"
—Travel + Leisure, 2025

Asheville topped the list of "The Top Small US Cities for Food
and Drink"

—Southernliving.com, 2024

Asheville listed on Forbes Travel Guide's Top 12 Destinations
for Food in 2025

—Forbes, 2025

Asheville ranked 16th on the New York Times "52 Places to
Go in 2025"

—New York Times, 2025

Population	2013	2023	% Change
Asheville City	84,883	94,369	11%
Buncombe County	241,801	271,790	12%
Asheville MSA	429,177	473,249	10%
North Carolina	9,651,380	10,584,340	10%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 and 2019-2023 American Community Survey, 5-year Estimates

Cost of Living Index - All Items

National Average	100
Asheville, NC	102.7
Charlotte, NC	91.2
Raleigh, NC	97.2
New York, NY	230.6
Atlanta, GA	96.0
Charleston, SC	101.9
Nashville, TN	95.6

Source: C2ER Cost of Living Index, 2024

Household Income	Avg.	Median
Asheville MSA	\$95,191	\$69,236
Buncombe County	\$98,793	\$70,578
North Carolina	\$97,403	\$69,904
United States	\$110,491	\$78,538

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey, 5-year Estimates

Taxes

Current Sales Tax Rate (Buncombe)	7.00%
NC Individual Income Tax Rate	4.5%
NC Corporate Income Tax Rate	2.5%

Sources: Buncombe County Tax Department; NC Department of Revenue

Average Home Sale Price

2023 - \$541,074	Closed Sales - 6,672
2024 - \$569,448	Closed Sales - 6,078

Source: Canopy MLS, for Asheville MSA

Estimated Median Rent - Asheville MSA

2022	\$1,121
2023	\$1,223

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018-2022 & 2019-2023, American Community Survey, 5-year Estimates

Reported Crime

	Violent Offenses	Property Offenses
Asheville Police Department (2023)	816	4,271
Asheville Police Department (2024)	762	3,765
% Change	-7%	-12%
Buncombe County Sheriff's Office (2023)	220	1,188
Buncombe County Sheriff's Office (2024)	177	1,242
% Change	-20%	5%

Source: FBI Uniform Crime Reporting

New Residential Housing	2023	2024
New Building Permits	3,926	5,378
Value of New Permits	\$1.24B	\$1.46B

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

Education

K-12 Public Schools	Student Enrollment
Asheville City	3,859
Buncombe County	21,843

Source: NCDPI, 2023-2024 school year

Colleges / Universities

UNC Asheville	2,925
Warren Wilson College	797
Montreat College	932
Asheville-Buncombe Technical	6,297
Mars Hill University	1,049
Haywood Community College	1,260
Blue Ridge Community College	2,822
Lenoir-Rhyne University*	2,230
Western Carolina University*	11,628

*satellite location in Asheville

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS, Fall 2023

Major Industry Employment ≥ 10%	% of Total*
Education & Health Services	19%
Leisure & Hospitality	14%
Government	13%
Retail Trade	12%
Professional & Business Services	10%
Manufacturing	10%

*Total Nonfarm Employment of 190,400

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2024 Annual Average, for Asheville MSA

Climate	Avg. Min °F	Avg. Max °F		Avg. Min °F	Avg. Max °F
January	24.8	51.6	July	68.7	78.0
February	28.8	50.3	August	67.3	76.7
March	33.5	56.8	September	60.2	74.1
April	48.0	61.2	October	50.0	65.1
May	57.0	69.4	November	41.2	56.0
June	64.7	76.8	December	29.6	51.1

Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 1857-2024 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

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

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