



Monthly Data						
Unemployment Rate %	Dec 2024	Dec 2025	Change	AVG Y-T-D 2024	AVG Y-T-D 2025	Change ¹
Asheville City	7.2	3.3	-3.9	4.0	5.0	1.0
Buncombe County	6.0	3.3	-2.7	3.7	4.6	1.0
Haywood County	3.9	3.0	-0.9	3.4	3.7	0.3
Henderson County	3.4	2.8	-0.6	3.1	3.4	0.3
Madison County	5.6	3.3	-2.3	3.5	4.5	1.1
Asheville Metro*	5.3	3.2	-2.1	3.5	4.3	0.8
North Carolina	3.4	3.4	0.0	3.6	3.8	0.1
United States	3.8	4.1	0.3	4.0	4.3	0.3
Total Employment (Asheville Metro)*	Dec 2024	Dec 2025	% Change	AVG Y-T-D 2024	AVG Y-T-D 2025	% Change
Total Employment (nonfarm)	191,000	193,500	1.3%	190,442	190,767	0.2%
Major Industry Employment*	Dec 2024	Dec 2025	% Change	AVG Y-T-D 2024	AVG Y-T-D 2025	% Change
Construction	9,800	10,200	4.1%	9,958	10,267	3.1%
Manufacturing	19,000	19,200	1.1%	19,167	19,008	-0.8%
Wholesale Trade	5,400	5,500	1.9%	5,417	5,450	0.6%
Retail Trade	24,400	23,800	-2.5%	23,742	23,517	-0.9%
Transportation & Warehousing	7,100	6,800	-4.2%	6,642	6,567	-1.1%
Information	2,300	2,300	0.0%	2,242	2,217	-1.1%
Financial Activities	6,400	6,500	1.6%	6,517	6,458	-0.9%
Professional & Business Services	19,200	19,700	2.6%	19,292	19,692	2.1%
Health Services & Education	36,900	38,200	3.5%	36,000	37,442	4.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	25,100	26,200	4.4%	26,983	25,492	-5.5%
Other Services	10,000	9,900	-1.0%	9,908	10,017	1.1%
Government	25,400	25,200	-0.8%	24,575	24,642	0.3%
Average Hourly Wages (Private)	Dec 2024	Dec 2025	% Change	AVG Y-T-D 2024	AVG Y-T-D 2025	% Change
Asheville Metro*	\$31.18	\$33.35	7.0%	\$30.41	\$32.27	6.1%
North Carolina	\$33.28	\$34.59	3.9%	\$32.47	\$33.88	4.3%
United States	\$35.82	\$36.94	3.1%	\$34.99	\$36.36	3.9%

Continued



Residential Activity**	Monthly Data			Y-T-D 2024	Y-T-D 2025	% Change
	Dec 2024	Dec 2025	% Change			
Closed Sales	497	574	15.5%	6,096	6,559	7.6%
Average Price of Homes Sold	\$540,267	\$558,688	3.4%	\$569,066	\$556,296	-2.2%
Median Price of Homes Sold	\$450,000	\$442,000	-1.8%	\$451,528	\$450,000	-0.3%
Days on Market Until Sale	61	74	21.3%	48	63	31.3%
Airport Activity	Dec 2024	Dec 2025	% Change	Y-T-D 2024	Y-T-D 2025	% Change
Total Passengers	148,938	170,574	14.5%	2,174,125	2,240,877	3.1%
New Residential Building Permits*	Dec 2024	Dec 2025	% Change	Y-T-D 2024	Y-T-D 2025	% Change
Units	310	PENDING	#VALUE!	5,048	PENDING	#VALUE!
Value (\$000)	\$96,755	PENDING	#VALUE!	\$1,385,917	PENDING	#VALUE!

Last Available Data			
Tourism (Buncombe County)	Nov 2024	Nov 2025	% Change
Lodging Sales (\$000)	\$32,600	\$52,600	61.4%

1 Note: October unemployment rate unavailable due to government shutdown.

*Comprised of Buncombe, Henderson, and Madison counties.

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Sources: US Bureau of Labor Statistics, US Census Bureau, NC Dept of Commerce, Canopy MLS, Asheville Regional Airport, Explore Asheville.

Supported by Western Carolina University. For more information, contact us at riverbirdresearch.com or 828-258-6120.