



Monthly Data

| Unemployment Rate % | May 2025 | May 2026 | Change | AVG Y-T-D 2025 | AVG Y-T-D 2026 | Change |
|---------------------|----------|----------|--------|----------------|----------------|--------|
| Asheville City | 5.0 | 3.4 | -1.6 | 6.5 | 3.6 | -2.9 |
| Buncombe County | 4.6 | 3.3 | -1.3 | 5.7 | 3.5 | -2.2 |
| Haywood County | 3.9 | 3.2 | -0.7 | 4.1 | 3.3 | -0.9 |
| Henderson County | 3.4 | 3.0 | -0.4 | 3.7 | 3.1 | -0.6 |
| Madison County | 4.6 | 3.4 | -1.2 | 5.5 | 3.6 | -1.9 |
| Asheville Metro* | 4.3 | 3.2 | -1.1 | 5.2 | 3.4 | -1.8 |
| North Carolina | 3.7 | 3.5 | -0.2 | 3.8 | 3.7 | -0.1 |
| United States | 4.0 | 4.1 | 0.1 | 4.2 | 4.4 | 0.2 |

| Total Employment (Asheville Metro)* | May 2025 | May 2026 | % Change | AVG Y-T-D 2025 | AVG Y-T-D 2026 | % Change |
|-------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------------|----------------|----------|
| Total Employment (nonfarm) | 187,000 | 188,600 | 0.9% | 183,900 | 185,680 | 1.0% |

| Major Industry Employment* | May 2025 | May 2026 | % Change | AVG Y-T-D 2025 | AVG Y-T-D 2026 | % Change |
|----------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------------|----------------|----------|
| Construction | 10,600 | 10,700 | 0.9% | 10,460 | 10,520 | 0.6% |
| Manufacturing | 19,100 | 18,600 | -2.6% | 19,120 | 18,720 | -2.1% |
| Wholesale Trade | 5,600 | 5,700 | 1.8% | 5,580 | 5,700 | 2.2% |
| Retail Trade | 23,400 | 23,700 | 1.3% | 23,060 | 23,400 | 1.5% |
| Transportation & Warehousing | 6,300 | 6,100 | -3.2% | 6,340 | 6,060 | -4.4% |
| Information | 2,000 | 2,000 | 0.0% | 2,000 | 2,000 | 0.0% |
| Financial Activities | 6,500 | 6,400 | -1.5% | 6,440 | 6,360 | -1.2% |
| Professional & Business Services | 19,100 | 19,600 | 2.6% | 18,940 | 19,200 | 1.4% |
| Health Services & Education | 35,600 | 35,700 | 0.3% | 35,100 | 35,500 | 1.1% |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 25,300 | 26,500 | 4.7% | 23,420 | 24,940 | 6.5% |
| Other Services | 9,400 | 9,500 | 1.1% | 9,320 | 9,400 | 0.9% |
| Government | 24,100 | 24,100 | 0.0% | 24,120 | 23,880 | -1.0% |

| Average Hourly Wages (Private) | May 2025 | May 2026 | % Change | AVG Y-T-D 2025 | AVG Y-T-D 2026 | % Change |
|--------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------------|----------------|----------|
| Asheville Metro* | \$31.71 | \$33.24 | 4.8% | \$31.42 | \$32.83 | 4.5% |
| North Carolina | \$33.57 | \$34.71 | 3.4% | \$33.58 | \$34.76 | 3.5% |
| United States | \$36.20 | \$37.46 | 3.5% | \$36.18 | \$37.47 | 3.6% |



| Monthly Data | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------|----------|------------|------------|----------|
| | May 2025 | May 2026 | % Change | Y-T-D 2025 | Y-T-D 2026 | % Change |
| Residential Activity** | | | | | | |
| Closed Sales | 557 | 592 | 6.3% | 2,439 | 2,524 | 3.5% |
| Average Price of Homes Sold | \$558,308 | \$573,215 | 2.7% | \$545,647 | \$555,620 | 1.8% |
| Median Price of Homes Sold | \$461,445 | \$446,500 | -3.2% | \$450,000 | \$440,000 | -2.2% |
| Days on Market Until Sale | 51 | 64 | 25.5% | 61 | 78 | 27.9% |
| Airport Activity | | | | | | |
| Total Passengers | 190,838 | 203,160 | 6.5% | 757,801 | 785,154 | 3.6% |
| New Residential Building Permits* | | | | | | |
| Units | 290 | 266 | -8.3% | 1,136 | 2,461 | 116.6% |
| Value (\$000) | \$94,149 | \$87,550 | -7.0% | \$442,386 | \$609,228 | 37.7% |
| | MOST CURRENT | | | | | |
| Tourism (Buncombe County) | | | | | | |
| Lodging Sales (\$000) | \$37,500 | \$46,900 | 25.1% | \$141,400 | \$152,500 | 7.9% |

*Comprised of Buncombe, Henderson, and Madison counties.

**Comprised of Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, and Madison counties.

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.