

Select Rankings

Asheville ranked #1 on "The Top 100 Cities for a Career Switch"  
—Careerminds.com, 2024

Asheville ranked #5 on "The South's Best Cities"

—Southernliving.com, 2024

Asheville ranked #10 on the list of "Best Food Destinations in the U.S."

—Tripadvisor.com, 2024

Asheville ranked #17 on the "Top 25 Places to Live in the U.S. in 2024-2025"

—U.S. News & World Report, 2024

Population	2012	2022	% Change
Asheville City	83,796	93,695	12%
Buncombe County	239,000	269,449	13%
Asheville MSA	425,219	469,484	10%
North Carolina	9,544,249	10,470,214	10%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 and 2018-2022 American Community Survey, 5-year Estimates

Cost of Living Index - All Items

National Average	100
Asheville, NC	98.1
Charlotte, NC	96.5
Raleigh, NC	97.8
New York, NY	225.2
Atlanta, GA	98.3
Charleston, SC	98.2
Nashville, TN	98.8

Source: C2ER Cost of Living Index, 2023

Household Income	Avg.	Median
Asheville MSA	\$89,513	\$64,538
Buncombe County	\$94,799	\$66,531
North Carolina	\$92,878	\$66,186
United States	\$105,833	\$75,149

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018-2022 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

2022 - \$502,164	Closed Sales - 7,944
2023 - \$539,473	Closed Sales - 6,682

Source: Canopy MLS, for Asheville MSA

Estimated Median Rent - Asheville MSA

2021	\$1,008
2022	\$1,121

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 & 2018-2022, American Community Survey, 5-year Estimates

Reported Crime

	Violent Offenses	Property Offenses
Asheville Police Department (2021)	715	5,018
Asheville Police Department (2022)	879	4,811
% Change	23pp	-4pp
Buncombe County Sheriff's Office (2021)	174	1,685
Buncombe County Sheriff's Office (2022)	142	1,482
% Change	-18pp	-12pp

Source: FBI Uniform Crime Reporting, 2022

New Residential Housing	2022	2023
New Building Permits	3,531	3,926
Value of New Permits	\$1.23B	\$1.24B

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

Education

K-12 Public Schools	Student Enrollment
Asheville City	3,990
Buncombe County	21,843

Source: NCDPI, 2022-2023 school year

Colleges / Universities

UNC Asheville	2,914
Warren Wilson College	793
Montreat College	972
Asheville-Buncombe Technical	6,473
Mars Hill University	1,032
Haywood Community College	1,286
Blue Ridge Community College	2,794
Lenoir-Rhyne University*	2,354
Western Carolina University*	11,635

\*satellite location in Asheville

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS, Fall 2022

Major Industry Employment ≥ 10%

Major Industry Employment ≥ 10%	% of Total*
Education & Health Services	18%
Leisure & Hospitality	15%
Retail Trade	13%
Government	13%
Manufacturing	11%
Professional & Business Services	11%

\*Total Nonfarm Employment of 206,200

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2023 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, 1857-2023 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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