



Unemployment Rate %	Monthly Data			AVG Y-T-D 2023	AVG Y-T-D 2024	Change
	Dec 2023	Dec 2024	Change			
Asheville City	2.6	7.2	4.6	2.8	4.7	1.9
Buncombe County	2.4	6.0	3.6	2.7	4.2	1.5
Haywood County	2.8	3.9	1.1	3.0	3.5	0.6
Henderson County	2.6	3.6	1.0	2.9	3.4	0.5
Madison County	2.8	6.0	3.2	3.2	4.2	1.0
Asheville Metro*	2.5	5.1	2.6	2.8	3.9	1.1
North Carolina	3.2	3.4	0.2	3.5	3.7	0.3
United States	3.5	3.8	0.3	3.6	4.0	0.4

Total Employment (Asheville Metro)	Dec 2023	Dec 2024	% Change	AVG Y-T-D 2023	AVG Y-T-D 2024	% Change
Total Employment (nonfarm)	209,100	207,100	-1.0%	206,225	206,150	0.0%

Major Industry Employment (Asheville Metro)	Dec 2023	Dec 2024	% Change	AVG Y-T-D 2023	AVG Y-T-D 2024	% Change
Construction	10,700	10,900	1.9%	10,658	10,925	2.5%
Manufacturing	21,200	21,000	-0.9%	21,708	21,225	-2.2%
Wholesale Trade	5,500	5,400	-1.8%	5,458	5,408	-0.9%
Retail Trade	27,500	27,300	-0.7%	26,792	26,542	-0.9%
Transportation & Warehousing	6,800	6,400	-5.9%	6,400	6,183	-3.4%
Information	2,400	2,400	0.0%	2,358	2,358	0.0%
Financial Activities	7,500	7,500	0.0%	7,358	7,467	1.5%
Professional & Business Services	20,800	20,200	-2.9%	20,567	20,483	-0.4%
Health Services & Education	38,000	39,800	4.7%	37,208	38,283	2.9%
Leisure & Hospitality	30,200	28,900	-4.3%	30,233	29,708	-1.7%
Other Services	10,900	11,200	2.8%	10,925	11,117	1.8%
Government (federal, state, and local)	27,600	26,100	-5.4%	26,558	26,450	-0.4%

Average Hourly Wages (Total Private)	Dec 2023	Dec 2024	% Change	AVG Y-T-D 2023	AVG Y-T-D 2024	% Change
Asheville Metro	\$28.71	\$31.12	8.4%	\$28.17	\$30.38	7.8%
North Carolina	\$31.92	\$33.43	4.7%	\$31.25	\$32.53	4.1%
United States	\$34.26	\$35.85	4.6%	\$33.74	\$35.05	3.9%

Median Price of Homes Sold

\$450,000▲ **\$8,550**

from Dec 2023

DOM Until Home Sale

61 Days▲ **21 Days**

from Dec 2023

Airport Passenger Traffic

148,938

Total Passengers

▼ **-28,756**

from Dec 2023

Monthly Data

Residential Activity (Asheville Metro)	Dec 2023	Dec 2024	% Change	Y-T-D 2023	Y-T-D 2024	% Change
Closed Sales	490	484	-1.2%	6,672	6,078	-8.9%
Average Price of Homes Sold	\$545,337	\$543,020	-0.4%	\$541,074	\$569,448	5.2%
Median Price of Homes Sold	\$441,450	\$450,000	1.9%	\$439,000	\$452,550	3.1%
Days on Market Until Sale	40	61	52.5%	38	48	26.3%

Airport Activity	Dec 2023	Dec 2024	% Change	Y-T-D 2023	Y-T-D 2024	% Change
Total Passengers	177,694	148,938	-16.2%	2,246,411	2,174,125	-3.2%

Building Permits (Asheville Metro)	Dec 2023	Dec 2024	% Change	Y-T-D 2023	Y-T-D 2024	% Change
New Residential Permits (total units)	668	310	-53.6%	3,831	5,048	31.8%
Value of New Residential Permits	\$135,600,000	\$96,755,000	-28.6%	\$1,211,656,000	\$1,385,917,000	14.4%

Last Available Data

Tourism (Buncombe County)	Nov 2023	Nov 2024	% Change	Y-T-D 2023	Y-T-D 2024	% Change
Lodging Sales	\$57,900,000	\$23,300,000	-59.8%	\$573,300,000	\$467,900,000	-18.4%

*The Asheville Metro is 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.

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December 2024 Summary in the wake of Hurricane Helene

+The Asheville Metro unemployment rate continued to decline following the initial spike from Hurricane Helene. The December preliminary unemployment rate in the Asheville Metro is 5.1%.

+Total nonfarm employment in the Asheville Metro area experienced a loss of 2,000 jobs (-1%) in December when compared to the same point a year ago.

+65% of December employment loss year-over-year was attributed to Leisure & Hospitality with a decline of 1,300 jobs compared to December of 2023.

+The Information and Financial Activity sectors remained stable while Construction and the Health Services & Private Education sectors collectively added 2,000 new jobs.

+The Government sector which includes local, state, and federal employment in the Asheville Metro, as well as public education, experienced an estimated loss of 1,500 jobs.

+The Asheville Metro continued to outpace state and national hourly average wage growth with an 8.4% increase December year-over-year.

+Residential home sales experienced a 1.2% decline December year-over-year.

+Airport passenger activity saw a year-over-year decline of 16.2% in December. This is a robust improvement compared to October and November 2024.

+For a full year, please refer to the year-to-date columns on the far right. Please note the December preliminary numbers are subject to adjustment.