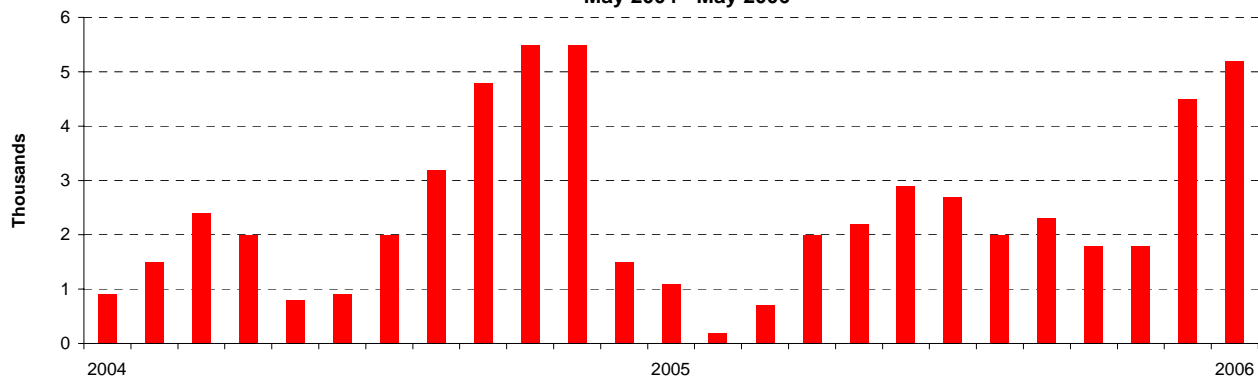


Net Job Gains - Asheville Metro Monthly Y-Y May 2004 - May 2006



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

	Monthly Data			AVG Y-T-D 2005	AVG Y-T-D 2006	Change
	May 2005	May 2006	Change			
Unemployment Rate %						
Asheville City	4.1	3.5	-0.6	4.3	3.5	-0.8
Buncombe County	4.3	3.6	-0.7	4.4	3.8	-0.6
Haywood County	3.9	3.8	-0.1	4.7	4.2	-0.5
Henderson County	4.2	3.3	-0.9	4.3	3.5	-0.8
Madison County	5.6	4.2	-1.4	5.3	4.4	-0.9
Asheville Metro*	4.3	3.6	-0.7	4.5	3.7	-0.8
North Carolina	5.2	4.6	-0.6	5.4	4.6	-0.8
United States	4.9	4.4	-0.5	5.3	4.8	-0.5
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics						
Total Employment (metro area*)						
Total Employment (nonfarm)	165,400	170,600	3.1%	165,000	168,200	1.9%
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics						
Major Industry Employment, thousands (metro area*)						
Construction	10,800	10,800	0.0%	10,600	10,400	-1.9%
Manufacturing	20,900	21,500	2.9%	21,600	21,400	-0.9%
Retail Trade	21,900	22,100	0.9%	21,800	22,100	1.4%
Transportation and Utilities	4,300	4,500	4.7%	4,300	4,500	4.7%
Wholesale	4,700	4,800	2.1%	4,700	4,800	2.1%
Information	2,000	1,900	-5.0%	2,000	1,900	-5.0%
Financial Activities	5,500	5,600	1.8%	5,400	5,600	3.7%
Professional & Business Services	14,700	15,300	4.1%	14,800	15,100	2.0%
Health Services & Private Education	27,500	28,900	5.1%	27,500	28,900	5.1%
Leisure and Hospitality	20,900	21,700	3.8%	19,800	20,400	3.0%
Government (federal, state, and local)	25,300	26,000	2.8%	25,600	26,000	1.6%
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics (preliminary)						
Utilities (Buncombe County)						
Number of Active Electric Customers	118,196	121,300	2.6%	117,375	120,280	2.5%
Source: Progress Energy						
Residential Activity (Asheville MLS area)						
Number of Homes Sold	346	376	8.7%	1,360	1,494	9.9%
Average Price of Homes Sold	\$256,242	\$277,859	8.4%	\$244,768	\$264,730	8.2%
Source: North Carolina Association of REALTORS						
Tourism (Buncombe County)						
Hotel/Motel Sales	\$11,832,606	\$13,530,492	14.3%	\$41,251,236	\$48,724,077	18.1%
Source: Buncombe County TDA						
Airport Activity						
Total Passengers	April 2005	April 2006	% Change	Y-T-D 2005	Y-T-D 2006	% Change
	50,466	45,285	-10.3%	174,891	159,137	-9.0%
Source: Asheville Regional Airport						

*Asheville metro area includes Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson and Madison counties.

For detailed information, published listings, market reports, and analysis, contact:

Asheville Metro Business Research Center (828) 258-6137, email econdev@ashevillechamber.org

See reverse side for more data.

Building Permits

Asheville Metro	Monthly Data			Y-T-D 2005	Y-T-D 2006	% Change
	May 2005	May 2006	% Change			
New Residential Permits (total units)	393	357	-9.2%	1654	1575	-4.8%
Value of New Residential Permits	\$65,498,000	\$64,836,000	-1.0%	\$256,131,000	\$323,246,000	26.2%

Source: US Census Bureau

The Four-County Asheville Metro Includes Individual Permitting Agencies Listed Below:

City of Asheville	Monthly Data			Y-T-D 2005	Y-T-D 2006	% Change
	May 2005	May 2006	% Change			
Value of New Commercial Permits	\$3,182,350	\$5,197,530	63%	\$24,006,075	\$26,599,920	11%
Value of Add/Alter Commercial Permits	\$4,357,809	\$4,561,158	5%	\$21,209,512	\$29,882,501	41%
New Residential Permits (total units)	40	52	30%	352	277	-21%
Value of New Residential Permits	\$5,226,537	\$6,239,818	19%	\$29,122,903	\$30,078,355	3%

Source: City of Asheville

Town of Black Mountain	Monthly Data			Y-T-D 2004	Y-T-D 2005	% Change
	May 2005	May 2006	% Change			
New Residential Permits (total units)	3	5	67%	6	22	267%
Value of New Residential Permits	\$470,864	\$1,179,178	150%	\$892,097	\$4,846,760	443%

Source: US Census Bureau

Buncombe County (Unincorporated Area)	Monthly Data			Y-T-D 2005	Y-T-D 2006	% Change
	May 2005	May 2006	% Change			
New Commercial Permits	5	11	120%	26	51	96%
Value of New Commercial Permits	\$6,013,000	\$7,232,406	20%	\$14,366,751	\$29,147,904	103%
Value of Add/Alter Commercial Permits	\$6,050,643	\$8,534,557	41%	\$34,693,346	\$18,295,507	-47%
New Residential Permits (total units)	235	163	-31%	667	754	13%
Value of New Residential Permits	\$39,867,094	\$40,845,489	2%	\$129,365,989	\$178,211,804	38%
New Mobile Home Permits	27	40	48%	180	156	-13%
Value of All Mobile Home Permits	\$1,249,311	\$1,392,534	11%	\$5,683,163	\$5,197,904	-9%

Source: Buncombe County

Haywood County (Unincorporated Area)	Monthly Data			Y-T-D 2005	Y-T-D 2006	% Change
	May 2005	May 2006	% Change			
New Residential Permits (total units)	52	32	-38%	190	178	-6%
Value of New Residential Permits	\$9,209,000	\$6,635,897	-28%	\$31,374,950	\$36,168,190	15%

Source: US Census Bureau

Henderson County	Monthly Data			Y-T-D 2005	Y-T-D 2006	% Change
	May 2005	May 2006	% Change			
New Residential Permits (total units)	155	107	-31%	479	427	-11%
Value of New Residential Permits	\$25,693,103	\$20,864,040	-19%	\$79,626,358	78,943,697	-1%

Source: US Census Bureau

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