Asheville, NC — #7 of 10: Commercial Builders

Commercial Builders: 36

As of 2022, based on U.S. Census data

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THE DATA

36

Commercial Builders (2022)

Asheville ranks #7 of 15 North Carolina metros in nonresidential building construction activity.

This figure reflects the number of establishments in the NAICS 2362 category — a proxy for commercial construction capacity. Asheville's position at #7 among NC metros signals a robust, albeit not dominant, level of commercial development activity. It trails Charlotte, Raleigh, Greensboro, Winston-Salem, Wilmington, and Durham, but outpaces Fayetteville, Hickory-Lenoir-Morganton, and Burlington.



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Source: U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns 2022, NAICS 2362 (Nonresidential building construction) · ALEX Intelligence computation
https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-11-07-asheville-istand-2362-msa

01

Commercial momentum is building in the hills

Asheville’s #7 ranking in commercial builders is not just a number — it’s a signal of structural shift. The city is no longer just a tourist destination; it’s becoming a regional hub for adaptive reuse, creative industries, and hybrid work infrastructure. The 36 commercial builders reflect a growing ecosystem of small- and mid-sized firms investing in flexible, mixed-use spaces that serve remote workers, startups, and local artisans. This activity is concentrated in the downtown and River Arts District corridors, where zoning reforms and public-private partnerships are accelerating development.

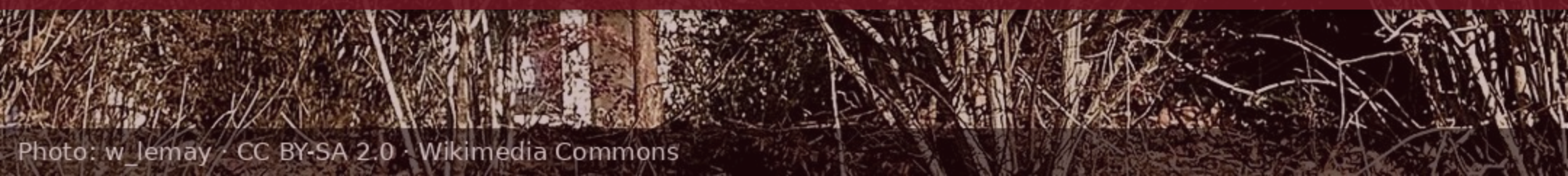


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02

Affordability is driving construction choice

The fact that Asheville ranks #7 — not #1 — in commercial construction underscores a critical trade-off: growth is constrained by affordability. With median home values among the highest in the state and limited land availability, developers are not building large-scale office towers. Instead, they are focusing on incremental, adaptive reuse of existing structures, repurposing old factories and warehouses into creative workspaces. This strategy supports workforce retention without inflating property values further, creating a sustainable model for mountain-region growth.

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