#2 of 10: 12-month change in the metropolitan unemployment rate (September 2026)

Asheville Leads NC in Job Market Tightening

Asheville, NC · U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics 2026

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THE DATA

-0.8%

12-month change in the metropolitan unemployment rate (September 2026)

Asheville recorded the second-lowest 12-month change in metropolitan unemployment rate among North Carolina's 15 metros.

This indicates a significant tightening in the labor market, with fewer people unemployed over the past year. The decline suggests strong job creation, rising hiring activity, and sustained economic momentum in the Asheville MSA. This trend reflects deeper structural shifts, including continued population inflow and a growing service and tech-driven economy.



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Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics and Current Employment Statistics, September 2026 (seasonally unadjusted, metropolitan) · ALEX Intelligence computation
https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-11-09-asheville-lab-bls-unemp-rate-chg-12m-msa

01

Labor Tightness Fuels Housing Demand

The fact that this tightening is second-best in the state underscores Asheville’s unique position: it’s not just growing—it’s growing sustainably.

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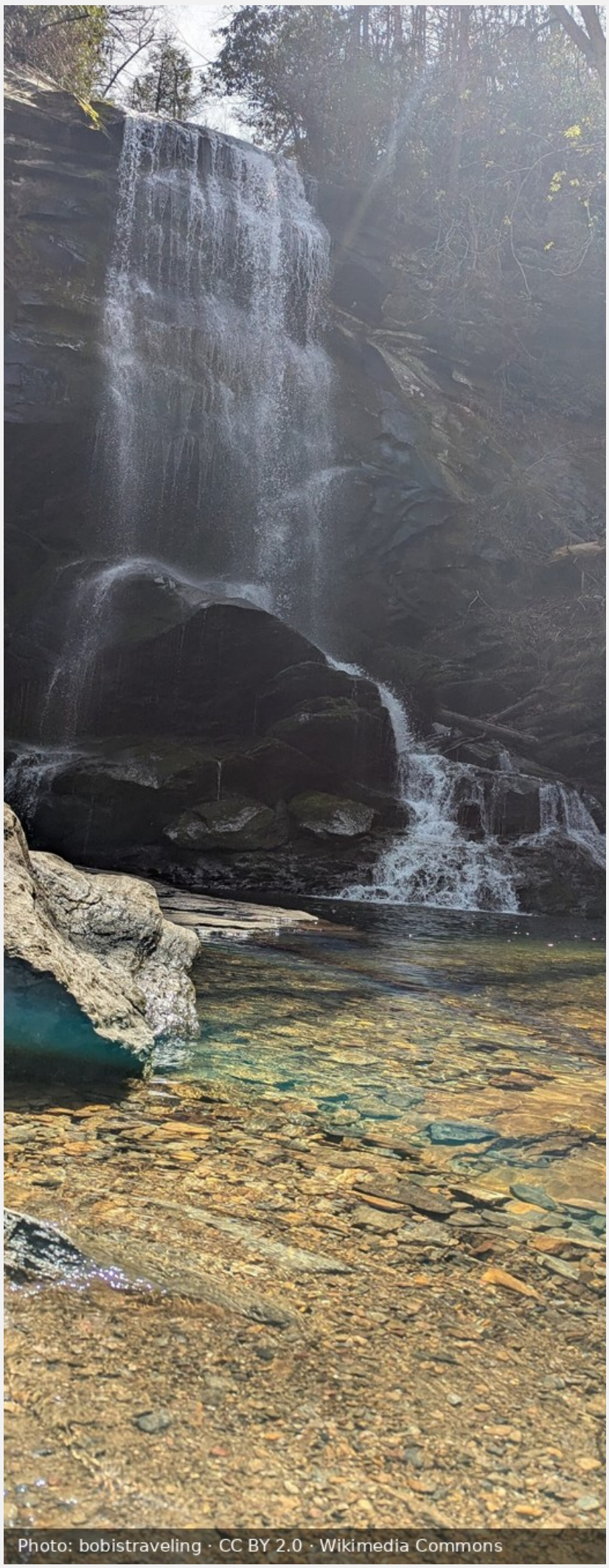


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02

Policy Momentum Follows Economic Strength

The alignment between economic performance and policy response suggests Asheville is not just reacting to growth—it's preparing for it.

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