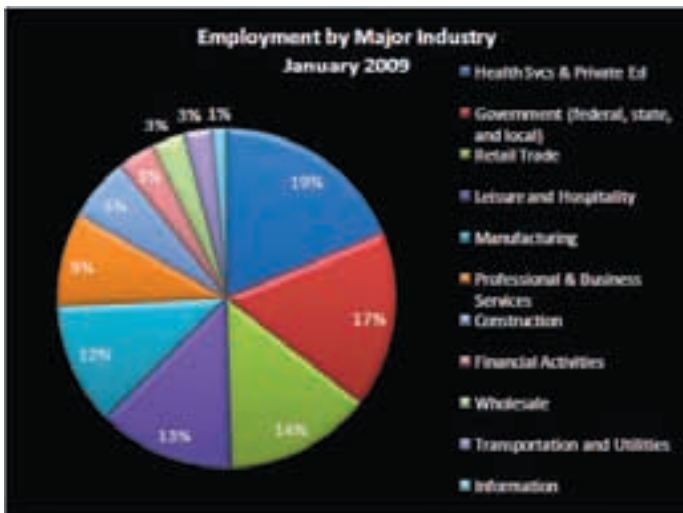


February 2009 EDC Staff Report

Local Economy Overview

Most current data available is reflected



	Jan 08	Jan 09
Asheville City	4	7.4
Buncombe County	4.2	8.2
Asheville Metro	4.4	8.7
North Carolina	5.3	10.3
United States	5.4	8.5

Metro Economy Highlights:

- As of January, total employment is down 3.6 percent from a year earlier. The loss of 6,300 jobs is the steepest year-year drop on record for the Asheville metro.
- At 8.7 percent, the January unemployment rate is the fourth lowest among all fourteen North Carolina metros; yet still the highest on record for the Asheville metro.

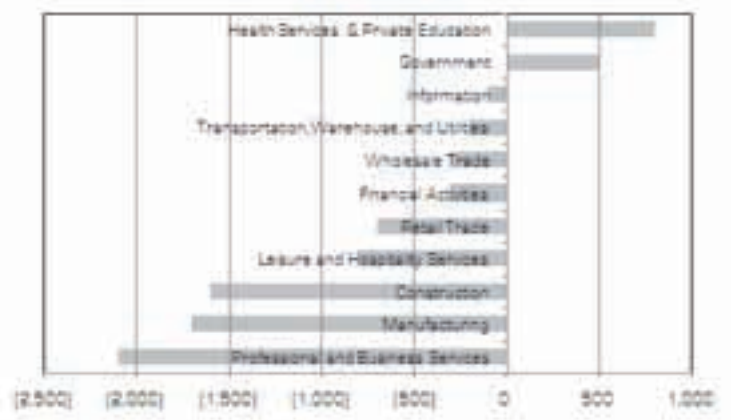
Research Activity February 2009:

- 40 completed research requests
- 2009-1010 Business & Industry Directory completed and ready for print
- 3 community presentations

Asheville MSA Major Industry Employment Change Dec 08 to Jan 09



Asheville MSA Industry Employment Change: Jan 08 vs Jan 09



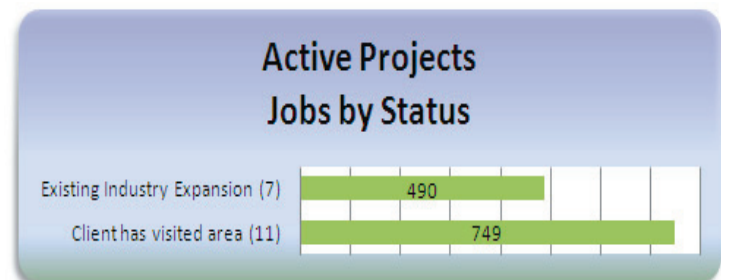
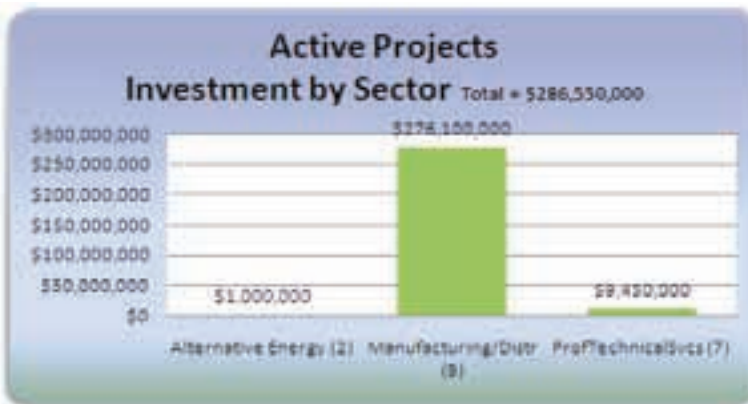
Local Economy Overview Cont'd



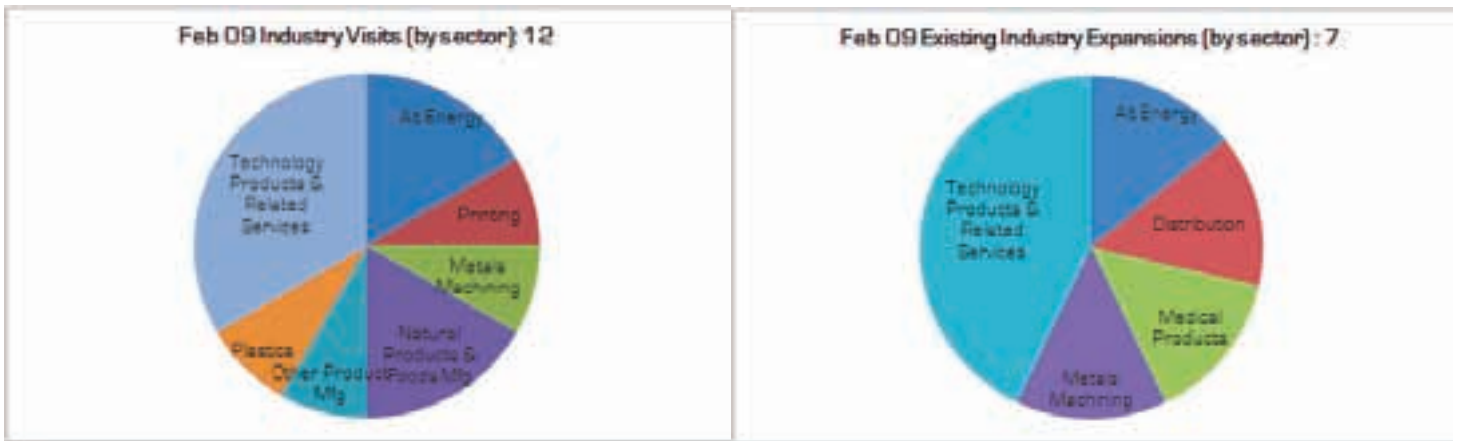
Residential Activity (Asheville MLS Area)	January 2008	January 2009	% Change
Number of Homes Sold	177	90	-49.2%
Average Price of Homes Sold	\$286,601	\$309,770	8.1%

Tourism (Buncombe County)	January 2008	January 2009	% Change
Hotel/Motel Sales	\$6,550,009	\$6,387,342	-2.5%

Overall Dashboard



Existing Industry



EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES:

February 9, 2009: Federal Contracting Fair. Sponsored by Senator Burrs' Office, the goal of the event was to educate Buncombe County businesses on tools, protocols and resources to develop federal business contracts resulting from stimulus dollars.

March 25, 2009: Energy Saving Advantages Seminar. This partnership between Chamber and Progress Energy will promote energy audits, utility savings and the latest in incentives and creative financing for the adoption of green energy and practices.

April 2, 2009: City of Asheville Public Forum on state of Public Transportation and the recommendations of the Master Transit Plan.

May 12, 2009: Western North Carolina Transportation Alliance Spring Meeting.

The WNCTA is a program of the EDC that troubleshoots the challenges/cost of Manufacturing Transportation/Logistics through education, best practices and development of intra-company partnerships.

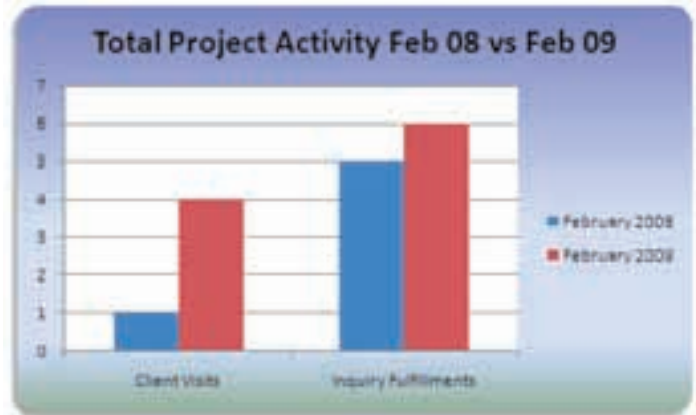
Small Business

Small Business & Entrepreneurship	FEBRUARY	YTD
General Business Inquiries	50	434
Small Business Consultations	3	32

- Small Business continues to organize and facilitate the on-going work of the standing committees of the Business Healthcare Roundtable.
- The third annual "We're for Business" awards event took place on February 24 at the Grove Park Inn with nearly 300 people in attendance. Eight award recipients received recognition for outstanding performance in customer service, innovation, green business practices, and community commitment.
- A six week Leadership Development class with Human Resource Solutions commenced on February 25.
- Small Business is seeking nominations for Small Business Leader of the Year and ATHENA Awards, due by mid-April.

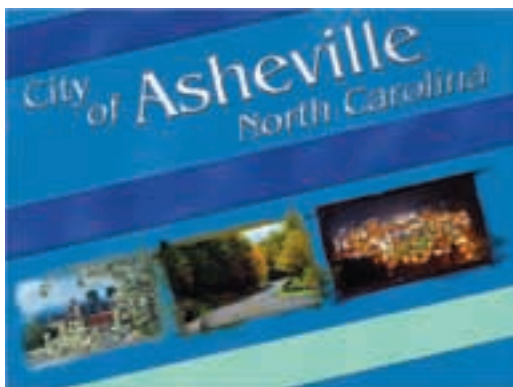


Marketing & Recruitment

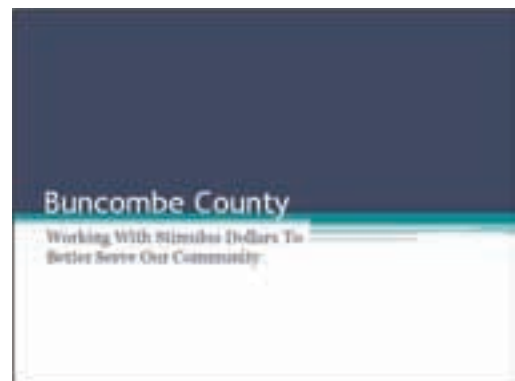


American Recovery & Investment Act Presentations

Economic Recovery in Asheville
Presented by Lauren Bradley
City of Asheville



Working With Stimulus Dollars to Better Serve our Community
Presented by Jon Creighton
Buncombe County



For more information please contact

Ben Teague

Senior VP of Economic Development

bteague@ashevillechamber.org

828.258.6130

