

Top Destination for Triangle Outflows — ALEX Intelligence 2026

Harnett County Is #1 for Triangle Outflows

2,011 households left the Triangle for Harnett in 2022–23

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THE DATA

2,011

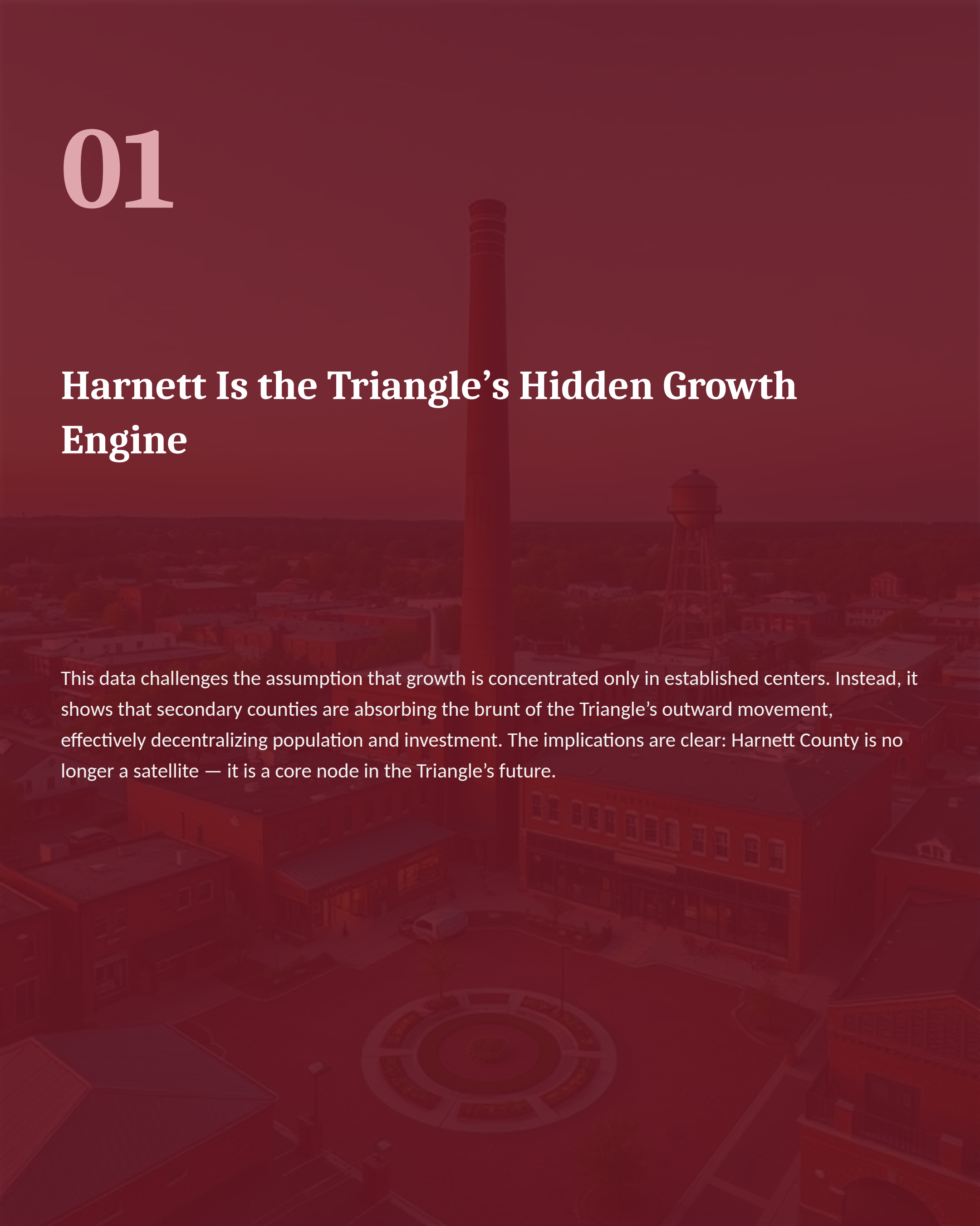
Households Moving Out to a Single County (2023)

Harnett County received more households leaving the Triangle than any other county in North Carolina.

This figure represents the single largest net inflow of households from the Triangle to a single county in the state. The data, drawn from IRS Statistics of Income migration records, reveals that Harnett County is not merely a nearby alternative — it is a primary destination for relocation, outpacing even established urban hubs like Mecklenburg and Guilford. The magnitude of this flow suggests a structural shift in where Triangle residents choose to settle.

Source: U.S. Internal Revenue Service, Statistics of Income Migration Data, county-to-county outflows, 2022-23 • ALEX Intelligence computation
<https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-09-13-triangle-mig-out-dest>



An aerial photograph of a city, likely Harnett County, North Carolina, overlaid with a semi-transparent red filter. A tall, dark smokestack stands prominently in the center. To the right, a water tower is visible. The foreground shows a circular plaza with a central monument or fountain, surrounded by buildings and streets. The overall scene depicts a growing urban area.

01

Harnett Is the Triangle's Hidden Growth Engine

This data challenges the assumption that growth is concentrated only in established centers. Instead, it shows that secondary counties are absorbing the brunt of the Triangle's outward movement, effectively decentralizing population and investment. The implications are clear: Harnett County is no longer a satellite — it is a core node in the Triangle's future.

02

Affordability Is Driving Strategic Relocation

This is not a flight from opportunity, but a strategic reallocation of resources. Households are not fleeing the Triangle — they are choosing to live in a more sustainable way within it. The data suggests that the Triangle's housing market is not overheating; it is undergoing a natural redistribution, with Harnett County emerging as the new frontier for middle-income and growth-oriented families.

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