

Top Origin of New Households in the Midlands — ALEX Intelligence 2026

Dorchester County Leads New Household Inflows

Top origin of households moving into the Columbia MSA — ALEX Intelligence 2026

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76

Growth in Households Moving In, by Origin County (2023)

Dorchester County, SC, sent 76 more households to the Columbia metro in 2022-23 than in 2021-22.

This surge reflects a structural shift in regional migration patterns, with Dorchester County emerging as the single largest source of new residents in the Midlands. The increase suggests strong demand for housing in Columbia and a growing preference for the city's affordability, infrastructure, and employment opportunities over more established coastal or urban centers.

Source: U.S. Internal Revenue Service, Statistics of Income Migration Data, county-to-county inflows, 2021-22 and 2022-23 · ALEX Intelligence computation
<https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-09-16-columbia-sc-mig-trend-origin>



01

Affordability Drives Inward Migration

As a result, the housing market is less vulnerable to short-term interest rate volatility, since demand is anchored in long-term residential decisions rather than speculative moves.

02

Dorchester's Role Signals Market Resilience

The trend also underscores that Columbia's growth is not driven by external speculation, but by internal realignment: people are choosing to move from one South Carolina county to another, with Columbia as the destination of choice.

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