

#1 Destination for Out-Moving Households — ALEX Intelligence 2026

Wilmington's Top Migration Destination Is Wake County

763 households moved there from the Cape Fear region in 2022–23

Swipe for insights →

THE DATA

763

Households Moving Out to a Single County (2023)

Wake County, NC, received more households from the Wilmington market than any other county in the U.S. in 2022–23.

This figure represents the largest single-county inflow from the Wilmington metro in the IRS migration dataset, underscoring a clear directional shift in regional residential dynamics. Wake County's dominance is not a coincidence—it reflects a growing trend of coastal professionals relocating inland for higher education, employment, and infrastructure stability.

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/2026-09-17-wilmington-mig-out-dest>



01

Migration as a Strategic Filter

This dynamic supports long-term market stability: the city retains its housing appeal while its residents contribute to the economic engine of the state's core.



02

Wake County as a Regional Hub

For real estate strategists, this means that long-term value in Wilmington is not in out-migration, but in its role as a high-value origin point within a broader North Carolina talent network.

Real Estate Strategy & Intelligence Leader. Democratized Blue Ocean Strategist & Operator.

Diane Hart Alexander, MBA, MHA

Chair & CEO, ALEX Companies

Designated Broker, Alexander Tiffany Southwest, LLC dba ALEX.realestate, et.al.

Texas License #574877-B · Broker License #565194-BB

diane@alex.realestate · +1 713.591.9902



ALEX Intelligence
deep intelligence

ALEX Real Estate
genius real estate

ALEX Advisory
uncontested strategy

ALEX Cares
purposeful philanthropy

