

#1 Source of Highest-Earning Inbound Households in Denver — ALEX Intelligence
2026

San Francisco Sends Denver Its Highest-Earning Households

Top source of high-income arrivals in 2022-23 — ALEX Intelligence 2026

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THE DATA

\$207,091

Average Income of Arriving Households (2023)

San Francisco County sends Denver the highest-earning household inflows in the nation.

This \$207,091 average income reflects a growing trend of affluent relocation from high-cost coastal cities to Colorado's urban core. The data reveals that Denver is not merely attracting population growth — it is becoming a destination for elite income mobility, with the top source being San Francisco County, CA, followed by New York and King County, WA. These flows are not random; they represent strategic, high-net-worth relocations, driven by lifestyle, tax policy, and geographic appeal.

Source: U.S. Internal Revenue Service, Statistics of Income Migration Data, county-to-county inflows, 2022-23 • ALEX Intelligence computation
<https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-09-21-denver-mig-in-agi>



01

Affluence Is Redefining Denver's Market

Denver is no longer just a regional migration hub — it's a national magnet for high-income households from the most expensive U.S. counties. The fact that San Francisco County leads this list underscores a structural shift: Denver is becoming a de facto secondary residence for elite earners escaping coastal housing bubbles. This inflow of capital, while boosting local consumption, also exacerbates affordability gaps, as the city's supply chain struggles to accommodate new demand without increasing displacement pressures.



02

Coastal Flight Is a New Urban Reality

The dominance of California and New York counties in this ranking signals a broader national pattern: affluent Americans are moving away from high-tax, high-regulation coastal enclaves toward lower-tax, high-lifestyle cities like Denver. This isn't just about cost of living — it's about economic recalibration. The incoming wealth is not neutral — it's reshaping neighborhood dynamics, pricing out middle-income residents, and increasing pressure on public services.

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