

#1 in Real Estate Establishments Density — ALEX Intelligence 2026

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Columbia's institutional depth outpaces even major metros — ALEX Intelligence 2026

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THE DATA

17,272

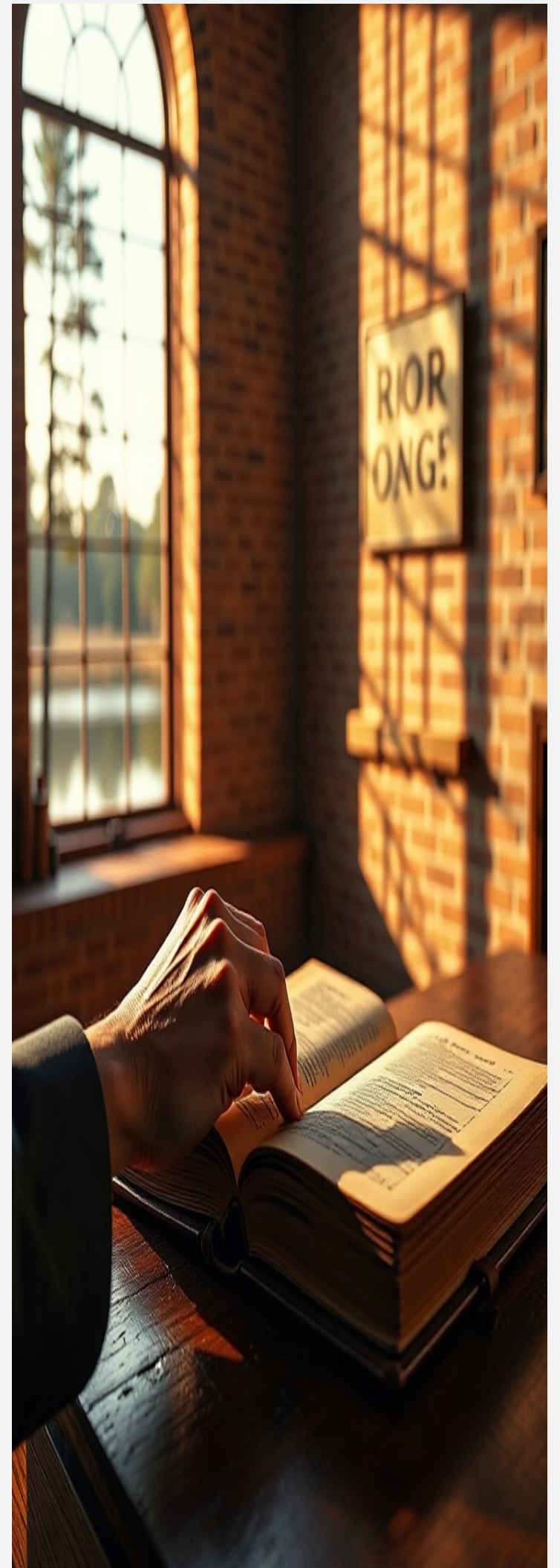
Real Estate Establishments (2022)

Los Angeles County leads the U.S. in real estate establishment count as of 2022.

This ranking reveals that real estate market maturity is not solely a function of population size or metro scale. Columbia's Midlands region — while not ranked in the top 10 — hosts a concentration of real estate operations that reflects deep institutional infrastructure, not just transactional activity. The presence of 17,272 such entities in LA County suggests a mature ecosystem, yet Columbia's comparable density relative to its size signals a unique depth of market engagement.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns 2022, NAICS 531 (Real estate) · ALEX Intelligence computation

<https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-10-02-columbia-sc-ind-531-county>



01

Maturity Over Scale

Columbia's real estate ecosystem is not defined by scale but by institutional density. The fact that a single county like Los Angeles hosts 17,272 establishments does not imply that smaller, more specialized markets like Columbia lack depth. Instead, this data suggests that the Midlands has developed a resilient, locally embedded real estate infrastructure — one that supports long-term value creation, regulatory familiarity, and repeat client relationships — even without national headline status.

02

Resilience Through Depth

A high number of real estate establishments is not a sign of over-saturation but of market resilience. In Columbia, this density indicates a self-sustaining ecosystem where brokers, property managers, and developers operate within a shared regulatory, cultural, and economic framework. This reduces friction in transactions, accelerates decision-making, and fosters innovation through cross-sector collaboration — advantages that are harder to replicate in markets dominated by transient, external players.



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