

#1 of 6 Boulder County cities, #1 of 12 Colorado counties — ALEX Intelligence 2026 Migration Data

#1 in Boulder County, #1 in Colorado

Top 3 counties supply 39.0% of inbound households — ALEX Intelligence 2026

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THE DATA

39.0%

Share of Arriving Households From the Top Three Counties (2023)

The top three sending counties — Adams, Jefferson, and Denver — account for nearly four in ten new residents to Boulder County.

This level of concentration is exceptional even within the high-mobility Colorado metro landscape. It reflects deep-rooted regional ties and a shared economic ecosystem. The fact that 39.0% of new households come from just three adjacent counties suggests that Boulder's appeal is not just a magnet for distant migration, but a destination for those already embedded in the Front Range's urban fabric.

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/2026-10-08-boulder-mig-county-top3>



01

Migration is a moat, not a threat

High concentration of inbound migration from adjacent counties signals a resilient, self-sustaining market. Unlike markets dependent on long-distance or out-of-state inflows, Boulder County's growth is driven by people already familiar with the region's culture, infrastructure, and cost structure. This reduces the risk of demand shocks from external economic shifts and creates a more stable, predictable housing market.

The dominance of Adams, Jefferson, and Denver as top sources also reflects the region's integration into a single labor and housing market — one where job seekers, young professionals, and families move within the Front Range, not across it.



02

Affordability is a filter, not a barrier

The fact that nearly 40% of new residents come from only three neighboring counties — all of which are also high-cost, high-demand areas — underscores that affordability is not a dealbreaker for those who prioritize Boulder’s unique ecosystem. These households are not fleeing high costs; they are seeking a specific value proposition: access to innovation, sustainability, and quality of life.

This suggests that Boulder’s market is not being overwhelmed by unaffordable demand, but shaped by a select cohort of high-intent, high-asset buyers. Their migration is not random — it’s strategic, and it reinforces the county’s premium positioning rather than undermining it.

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