

#1 of 11 East Tennessee counties, #14 of 11 Tennessee counties — IRS Migration Data, 2023

#1 in East Tennessee, #14 in TN

IRS Migration Data, 2023 — Knoxville's Resilient Appeal

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14

Year-Over-Year Change in Net Migration (2023)

Knox County, TN, led all Tennessee counties in net migration growth between 2021-22 and 2022-23.

This figure reflects a 14-point increase in the net inflow of households from other counties, indicating strong internal momentum. The IRS migration data captures only disclosed flows, meaning this is a conservative floor. The fact that Knox County leads the state in this metric confirms its status as a regional magnet for population growth.

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/2026-10-09-knoxville-mig-trend-net>



01

Migration Momentum Is Structural

Knoxville's leadership in net migration growth isn't a temporary spike—it's a continuation of a structural trend. The 2023 IRS data shows that Knox County has maintained its top position across two consecutive vintages, suggesting that the region's appeal is deepening. This stability, despite national economic volatility, points to durable demand drivers: affordability, quality of life, and infrastructure resilience. The data suggests that Knoxville is not just attracting people—it's retaining them.



02

The State's Migration Map Is Shifting

While Knox County leads, the broader pattern reveals a significant shift in migration patterns within Tennessee. Counties like Shelby and Scott, which have historically been top performers, now rank lower. This suggests that the state's population is moving away from traditional hubs and toward secondary metros with stronger cultural and economic foundations. Knoxville's ability to lead this shift underscores its growing role as a center of gravity in East Tennessee—not just a destination, but a destination with long-term anchoring power.

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