

#1 in Charlotte metro, #1 in North Carolina — ALEX Intelligence 2026

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ALEX Intelligence 2026 — In-Migration Trend Ranking

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THE DATA

23.0%

Five-Vintage Change in Households Moving In (2023)

Charlotte's in-migration surge between 2017-18 and 2022-23 reflects a sustained shift in household formation.

This 23.0% increase in households moving into the Charlotte market is not a temporary spike but a structural reconfiguration of regional population dynamics. It signals that Charlotte has become the dominant destination for intra-state and interregional migration within North Carolina, outpacing even Wake County — traditionally a magnet for growth.

Source: U.S. Internal Revenue Service, Statistics of Income Migration Data, county-to-county inflows, 2017-18 and 2022-23 · ALEX Intelligence computation
<https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-10-10-charlotte-mig-trend-in-long>



Photo: TracyAndJohn · CC BY 3.0 · Wikimedia Commons

A satellite image of a city at night, showing a dense network of glowing lights and roads. The lights are concentrated in the center and spread outwards, creating a complex pattern of illumination against the dark background of the city and surrounding areas. The roads are visible as thin, winding lines of light, connecting different parts of the city. The overall scene is a high-contrast, detailed view of urban development from space.

01

Migration is the new foundation of growth

The data reveals that Charlotte is no longer just a regional hub — it's becoming the state's primary engine of residential and labor force expansion. This dynamic is reinforcing the city's position as the anchor for North Carolina's next wave of economic development.

02

The hidden cost of being #1

The 23.0% rise in in-migration suggests that Charlotte's market is nearing a threshold where growth becomes self-sustaining but also increasingly fragile. Without proactive planning, the very strength of migration could undermine long-term stability.



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