

#1 in Midlands, #1 in SC — ALEX Intelligence 2026

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ALEX Intelligence 2026 In-Migration Ranking

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THE DATA

2.7%

Year-Over-Year Change in Households Moving In (2023)

Columbia's Midlands metro recorded the highest in-migration growth among all counties in South Carolina between 2021-22 and 2022-23.

This 2.7% rise in household inflows reflects a sustained demographic shift, not a one-off surge. The data, drawn from IRS Statistics of Income Migration Data, captures actual household movements across county lines—verified by consistent FIPS coding and disclosure thresholds. The fact that this growth outpaced even high-demand counties like Charleston and York underscores a structural realignment toward Columbia as a regional hub.

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/2026-10-10-columbia-sc-mig-trend-in-total>

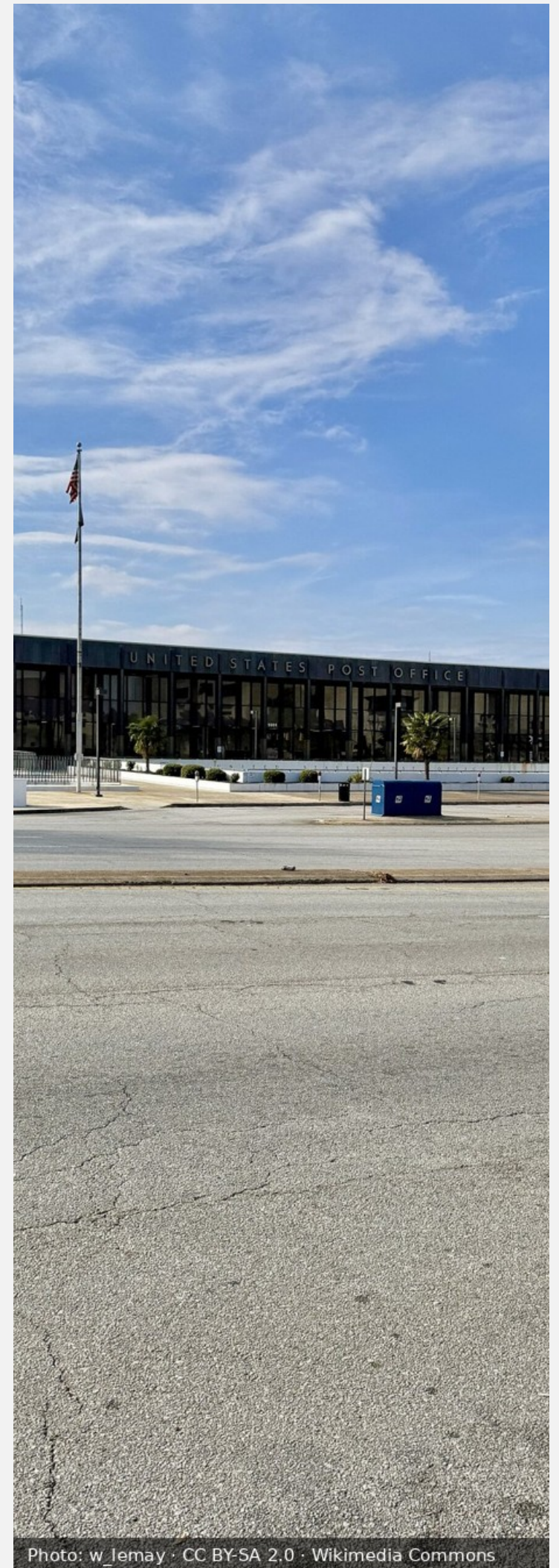


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01

Migration as Infrastructure

The 2.7% inflow isn't just about people—it's about capital, labor, and long-term demand formation. Each moving household brings not only income but expectations: new schools, healthcare access, retail, and housing. This isn't a transient trend; it's the foundation of a self-reinforcing economic ecosystem. The Midlands is not just attracting people—it's building the institutional capacity to sustain them.

02

Affordability as a Magnet

Columbia's top-tier in-migration rank persists despite being a mid-tier market. The IRS data shows inflows from higher-cost regions—including Harris County, TX, and Kings County, NY—indicating that affordability is a strategic pull factor. These are not just retirees or remote workers; they are families relocating for quality of life and stability. The Midlands is becoming a destination for those seeking a balance between urban amenities and economic resilience.



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