

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

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Ranked by share of arriving households from top three counties — ALEX Intelligence, 2026

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THE DATA

12.9%

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

This figure reflects the concentration of new residents in the Upstate from just three source counties, a pattern indicating deep regional pull.

The Upstate's inbound migration is not broadly distributed but highly concentrated, with 12.9% of all new households originating from Charleston County, SC, Richland County, SC, and Mecklenburg County, NC — the top three sending counties. This level of concentration suggests a powerful gravitational pull from these specific regions, likely due to economic, cultural, or lifestyle factors unique to the Upstate's current development trajectory.

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/2026-10-10-upstate-sc-mig-county-top3>

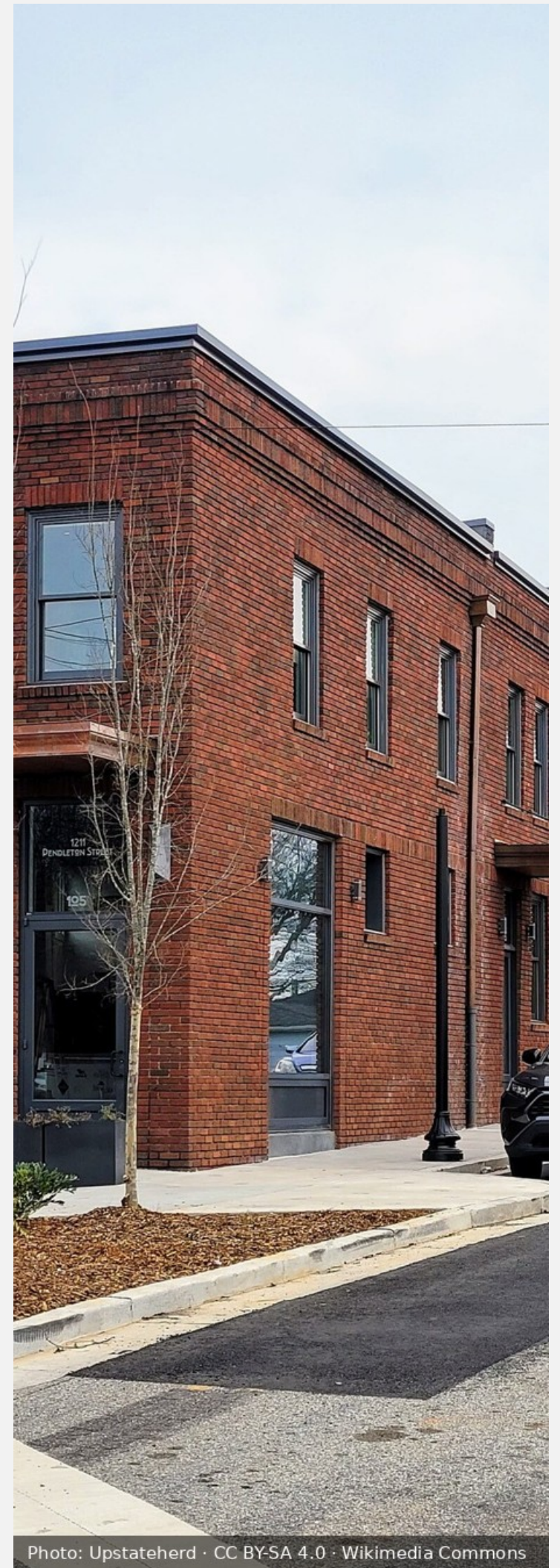


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Migration is a strategic filter

This concentration may also indicate that the Upstate is becoming a magnet for 'urban refugees' — professionals and families leaving high-cost, high-pressure environments in favor of a more balanced lifestyle. That is not a sign of weakness; it is a signal of growing maturity in the market's identity.

02

Infrastructure must keep pace with intent

This is not a call to slow growth, but to align it with foresight. The region must treat migration not as a metric to celebrate, but as a demand signal — one that must be met with resilient, future-proof infrastructure.



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