

ALEX Intelligence 2026 Migration Report

#1 in East Tennessee, #1 in TN

Jefferson County is the top origin of new households in Knoxville — ALEX Intelligence 2026 Migration Report

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THE DATA

622

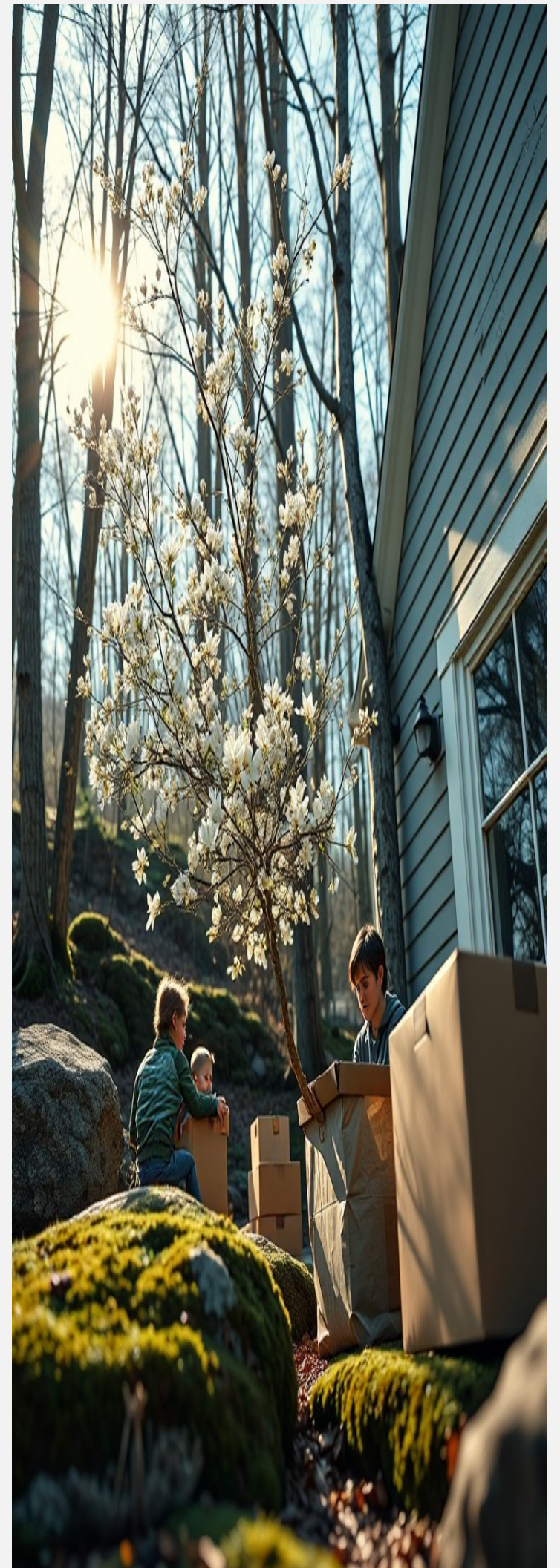
Households Moving In From a Single County (2023)

Jefferson County, TN sent 622 households to the Knoxville market in 2022–2023 — more than any other county in East Tennessee.

This inflow reflects a growing trend of intra-state migration, with residents from rural and small-town East Tennessee choosing Knoxville for its affordability, job opportunities, and access to services. The data suggests that Knoxville is becoming the regional hub for economic mobility within the state.

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-knoxville-mig-in-origin>



01

Migration as a Growth Engine

Crucially, this movement is internal — not from distant states or urban centers — meaning the demand is rooted in local economic dynamics, not transient remote work trends. This makes Knoxville's growth more sustainable and less vulnerable to national market swings.



02

Rural-to-Urban Rebalancing

This internal migration pattern suggests that Knoxville is emerging as a destination not for newcomers from afar, but for people from neighboring communities seeking better opportunities without leaving the region. This dynamic supports long-term stability in the housing market, as demand comes from within the state's economic ecosystem, not from external speculation.

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