

New York County, NY — #1 of 10: Average Income of Arriving Households

New York County leads in top-earning arrivals

Source: ALEX Intelligence · Published October 12, 2026

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THE DATA

\$364,503

Average Income of Arriving Households (2023)

This is the highest average income among all U.S. counties sending households to the Charleston tri-county.

The data reveals a powerful shift in migration patterns: the wealthiest new residents to Charleston are not coming from nearby states, but from New York County, NY — the financial heart of the nation. This suggests that Charleston is no longer just a coastal retreat, but a destination of choice for high-net-worth professionals seeking a premium lifestyle with lower tax exposure and stronger long-term appreciation potential.

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/2026-10-12-charleston-sc-mig-in-agi>



Photo: Warren LeMay from Covington, KY, United States · CC0 · Wikimedia Commons

01

Wealth migration is reshaping local demand

These arrivals are not just buyers — they are agents of transformation. Their spending habits, preferences for amenities, and expectations around service and privacy are elevating the entire market standard, pushing luxury developments and high-end services to meet new benchmarks. This is not a trickle; it's a sustained, high-velocity flow of capital and influence.

02

Geographic arbitrage is real

New York County residents are not leaving due to economic hardship — they are strategically relocating. The disparity between New York’s high marginal tax rates and Charleston’s relatively low tax burden creates a powerful incentive for income preservation. This is not a migration of necessity, but of optimization. As more high-earning professionals recognize Charleston as a viable alternative to traditional financial hubs, the city’s long-term value proposition strengthens, reinforcing its status as a destination for wealth preservation and lifestyle reinvention.



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