

#1 of 10: Income Gap Between Arriving and Departing Households

Wilmington's Income Gap Is the Highest in NC

Arriving households earn 53.1% more than those leaving

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THE DATA

53.1%

Income Gap Between Arriving and Departing Households (2023)

Wilmington leads North Carolina in the income differential between incoming and outgoing households.

This 53.1% gap is not a sign of inequality—it's a signal of market strength. Households moving into Wilmington are earning significantly more than those leaving, indicating a net gain in economic capacity. This dynamic supports sustained home value growth and underpins demand for premium housing, services, and amenities.

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/2026-10-14-wilmington-mig-agi-gap>



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01

Wealth Is Inflowing, Not Outflowing

This inflow of higher-income households is not merely a headline—it's a foundational shift in the market's economic base. It suggests that local policies, infrastructure, and community resilience are now a competitive advantage in attracting capital and talent.

02

The Market Is Becoming Self-Reinforcing

This is not a bubble—it's a virtuous feedback loop. The data shows this isn't a one-off trend but a systemic shift. The market isn't just growing; it's upgrading its economic profile, making it more resilient to national downturns.



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