

the Houston metro — #1 of 10: Year-Over-Year Change in Net Migration

Houston MSA leads Texas in migration decline

IRS data reveals a sharp net outflow in 2022-23

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THE DATA

5,669

Year-Over-Year Change in Net Migration (2023)

Houston MSA recorded the largest decline in net migration among all Texas counties with comparable data.

This figure represents the total year-over-year change in household inflows from other counties, as tracked by the IRS. The drop indicates a significant reversal in population momentum, despite Houston's strong job growth and economic expansion.

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/2026-10-16-houston-msa-mig-trend-net>

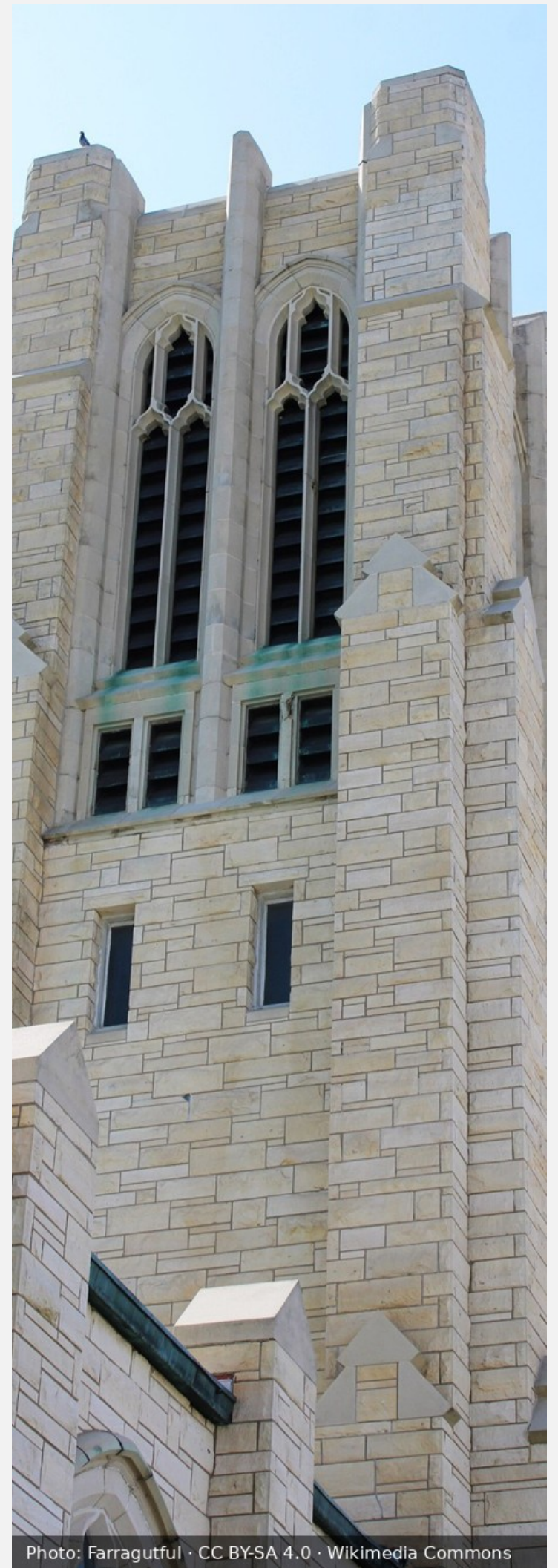


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01

Migration decline masks resilience

While Houston MSA leads Texas in net migration loss, this does not signal weakness. The outflow is likely driven by short-term relocation patterns rather than long-term disinvestment.

02

The paradox of urban momentum

Houston's migration data reveals a divergence between population flow and economic vitality. The city is attracting high-value industries and expanding infrastructure, yet is losing households. This suggests that the MSA is experiencing a shift in household composition—possibly younger, transient workers relocating for opportunity, not permanence.



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