

Contra Costa County, CA — #1 of 10: Average Income of Arriving Households

Top earners moving to Houston come from CA

Source: ALEX Intelligence, October 18, 2026

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THE DATA

\$387,809

Average Income of Arriving Households (2023)

Contra Costa County, CA leads all U.S. counties in income of households relocating to the Houston MSA.

This figure represents the average income of households moving from Contra Costa County, CA — a region known for high-tech and finance industries — to the Houston metro. It is the highest recorded inflow of high-earning households from any single county in the U.S., surpassing even New York County and King County, WA.

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/2026-10-18-houston-msa-mig-in-agi>



Photo: lowryba · CC BY 3.0 · Wikimedia Commons

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a bridge spanning a river. The bridge has a metal truss structure. The river is calm, and the surrounding landscape includes some trees and a small building on the left bank. A semi-transparent red rectangle is positioned in the top-left corner, containing the number '01'.

01

Wealth is reshaping Houston's market

The influx of high-income households from elite California counties signals a shift in Houston's economic identity. These arrivals are not just relocating for cost savings — they are bringing capital, investment acumen, and expectations of premium amenities. This dynamic supports demand for high-end residential, private clubs, and high-performance infrastructure, reinforcing Houston's position as a magnet for post-legacy wealth migration.

02

Texas is losing high earners — but Houston is gaining them

While Texas as a state loses high-income residents to other states, Houston MSA is becoming a net beneficiary of this migration. The data reveals a structural divergence: Houston is attracting top earners from coastal elite zones, even as Texas loses population to states like Florida and Arizona. This suggests Houston is not just surviving the state's broader demographic trends — it is actively reshaping them.



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