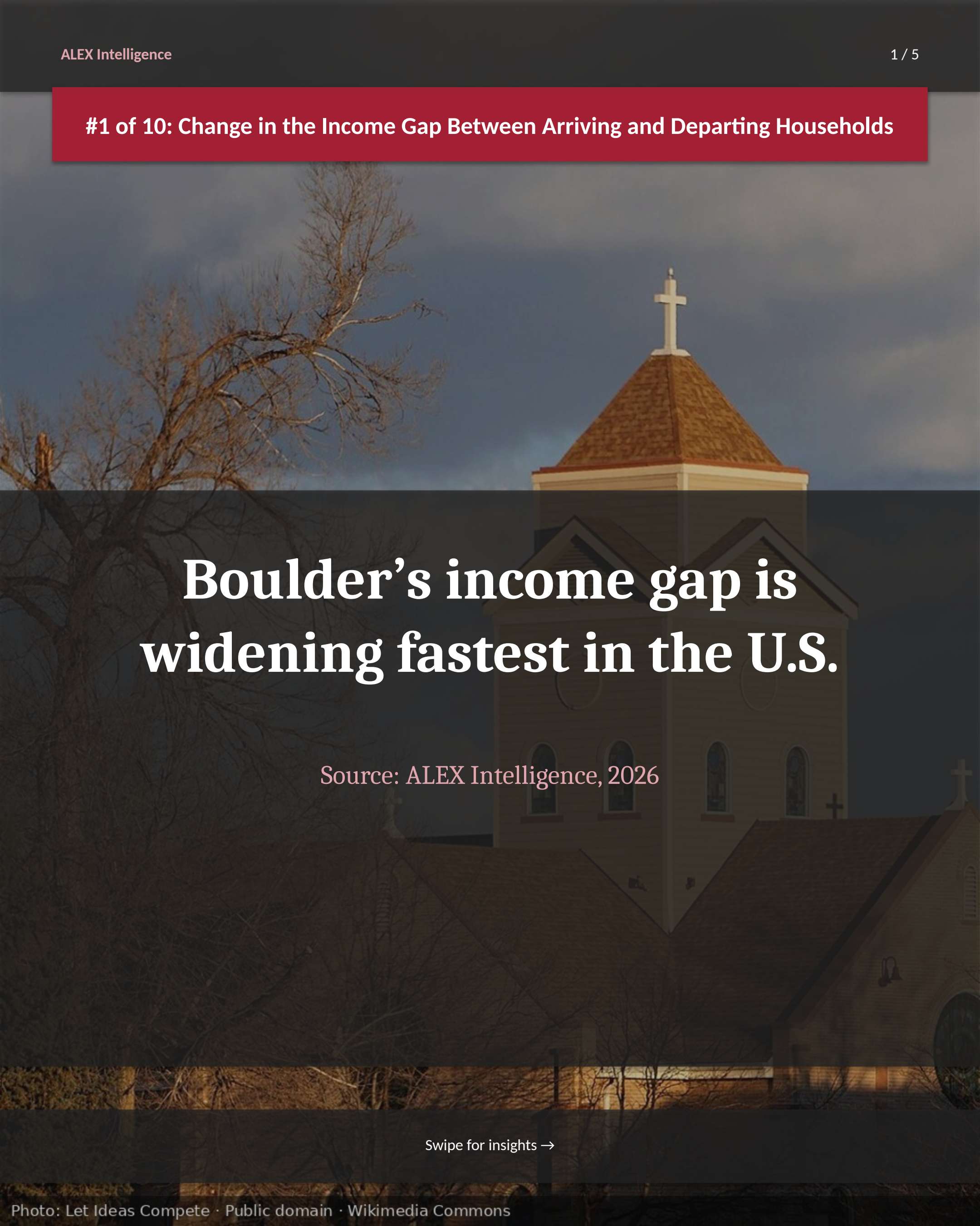


#1 of 10: Change in the Income Gap Between Arriving and Departing Households



Boulder's income gap is widening fastest in the U.S.

Source: ALEX Intelligence, 2026

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THE DATA

6.6%

Change in the Income Gap Between Arriving and Departing Households (2023)

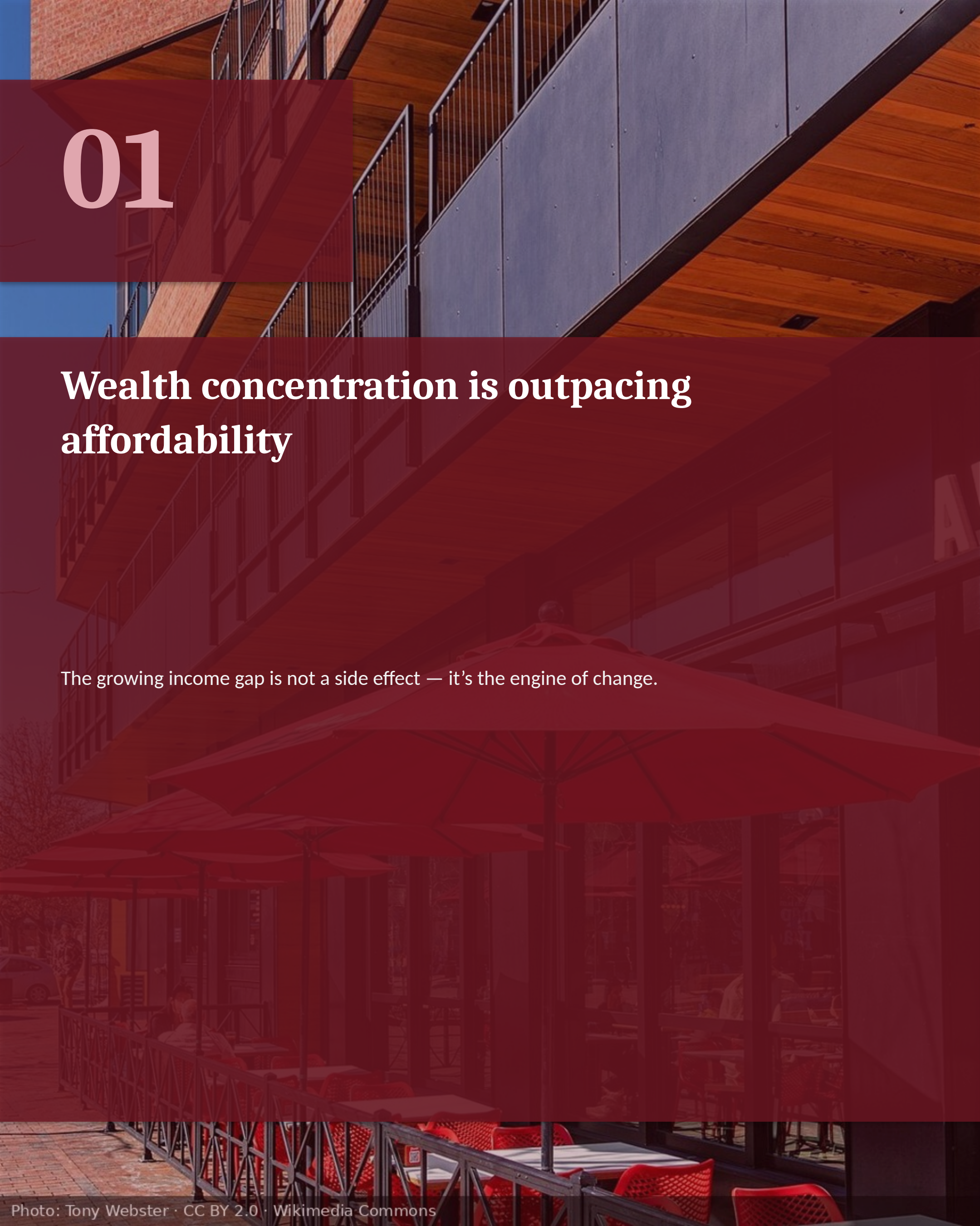
Boulder County's incoming wealth gap grew faster than any other U.S. county with comparable migration data.

This 6.6% increase in the income gap between arrivals and leavers reflects a deepening divide in economic mobility. New residents are earning significantly more than those who depart, signaling a concentration of high-income talent while lower- and middle-income households face increasing pressure to leave. This dynamic is not just about wages — it's a structural shift in who can afford to live here.

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/2026-10-24-boulder-mig-trend-agi>



Photo: Let Ideas Compete · Public domain · Wikimedia Commons



01

Wealth concentration is outpacing affordability

The growing income gap is not a side effect — it's the engine of change.

02

Affordability is now a migration filter

This has implications beyond housing: it affects workforce stability, small business viability, and long-term community cohesion. As the cost of living outpaces wage growth — especially for non-tech, non-remote workers — the county risks becoming a place of economic exclusion, even as it remains a magnet for innovation.



Photo: Let Ideas Compete from Lafayette, Colorado, United States
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