

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

Wilmington leads NC in narrowing income gap

Source: ALEX Intelligence · Published October 26, 2026

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THE DATA

1.3%

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

Wilmington recorded the largest narrowing of the income gap between incoming and outgoing households among all counties in North Carolina.

This 1.3% improvement signals a significant shift in migration dynamics: incoming households are now earning closer to the same levels as those leaving, reducing economic polarization. This trend suggests increasing parity in workforce mobility and a more balanced integration of new residents into the local economy.

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/2026-10-26-wilmington-mig-trend-agi>

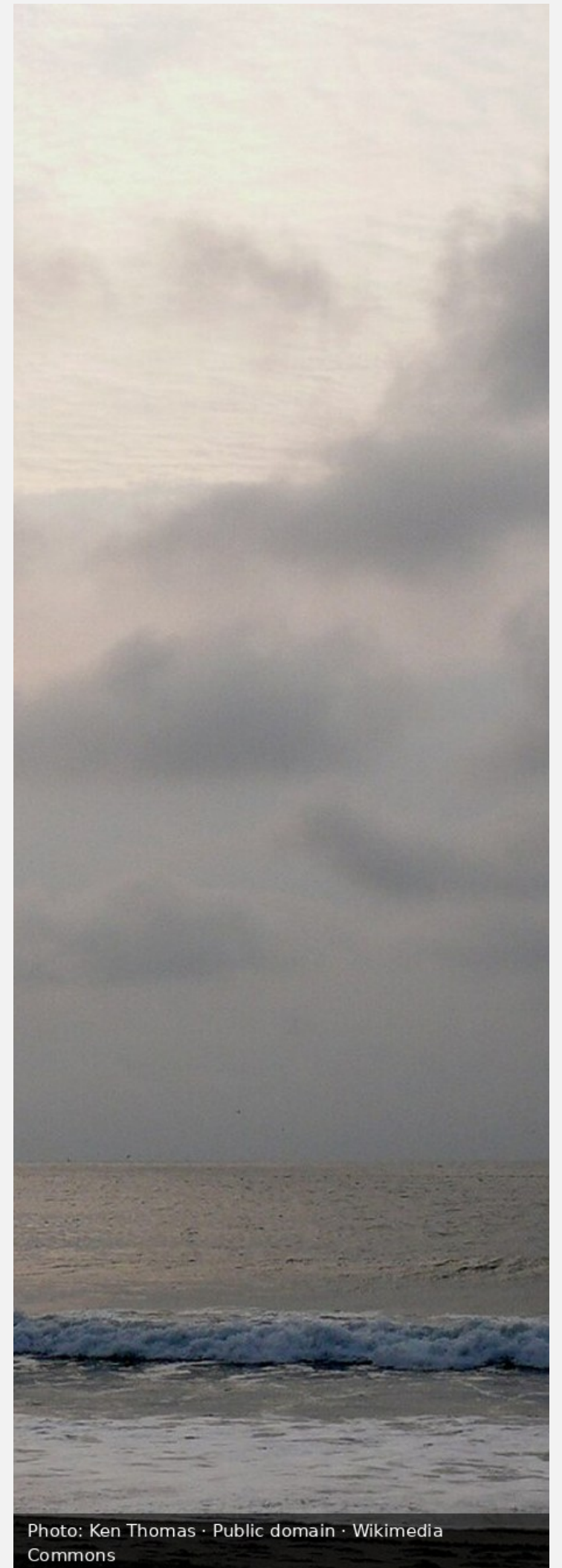


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01

Migration is becoming more economically balanced

This balance reduces the risk of social friction and supports sustainable growth. It indicates that Wilmington is no longer just a retirement or remote-work destination—it is becoming a true economic ecosystem where mobility and opportunity are more evenly distributed.

02

Real estate demand is stabilizing

For real estate professionals, this means the market is moving beyond boom-cycle volatility. The focus shifts from short-term appreciation to long-term livability, community integration, and quality-of-life infrastructure—factors that align with the region’s cultural and coastal advantages.



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