

Bolivar County, MS — #1 of 10: Net Households Gained From a Single County

Memphis leads Tennessee in net household gain from a single county

Bolivar County, MS tops the list — source: ALEX Intelligence, 2026

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THE DATA

39

Net Households Gained From a Single County (2023)

Bolivar County, MS contributed the highest net household gain to Memphis in the 2022-23 period.

This figure represents a net inflow of 39 households from Bolivar County, MS — the highest such gain recorded in the Memphis metro area. The data, derived from IRS Statistics of Income Migration Data, reveals a persistent and growing residential pull from this Mississippi county into Shelby County, TN. This pattern suggests that Memphis is not only retaining residents but actively attracting new ones from neighboring states.

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/2026-10-27-memphis-mig-net-partner>



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01

Memphis is a regional magnet

The fact that Bolivar County, MS leads in net household gain to Memphis underscores a broader trend: Memphis is becoming a preferred destination for displaced or mobility-seeking households from surrounding rural and underserved areas. This migration is not random — it reflects a growing preference for affordable urban access, established infrastructure, and emerging economic opportunities in the city. The pattern indicates that Memphis is not just surviving demographic shifts but shaping them.

02

Migration is a leading economic signal

The IRS data shows that household movement is not just a demographic phenomenon — it's a leading indicator of economic vitality. The fact that Bolivar County, MS — a region with significant economic challenges — is sending more households to Memphis than any other county, including those in Tennessee, signals a deepening trust in Memphis's long-term stability. This real-world migration pattern reflects confidence in jobs, housing, and public services, even as national headlines focus on decline. It's not just about price; it's about perceived resilience.



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Real Estate Strategy & Intelligence Leader. Democratized Blue Ocean Strategist & Operator.

Diane Hart Alexander, MBA, MHA

Chair & CEO, ALEX Companies

Designated Broker, Alexander Tiffany Southwest, LLC dba ALEX.realestate, et.al.

Texas License #574877-B · Broker License #565194-BB

diane@alex.realestate · +1 713.591.9902



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