

South Carolina — #1 of 10: Share of Arriving Households From One State

South Carolina leads Upstate migration by 35.2%

Source: ALEX Intelligence · Published October 27, 2026

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THE DATA

35.2%

Share of Arriving Households From One State (2023)

South Carolina supplies more of the Upstate's inbound migration than any other state.

This 35.2% share reflects a profound internal migration dynamic: residents are not just moving into the Upstate—they are moving from one part of South Carolina to another. The data suggests that the Upstate is not merely a destination for out-of-state migrants, but the primary magnet within the state itself.

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-upstate-sc-mig-state-leader>



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The Upstate is South Carolina's migration engine

The fact that 35.2% of new Upstate households originate from within South Carolina—more than any other state—indicates that the region is no longer just a receiving end of population shifts. It is now the central hub of statewide mobility. This internal dominance suggests that the Upstate is the state's most dynamic economic and housing market, capable of attracting not only external talent but also the state's own population seeking better opportunities. The implications for real estate demand, infrastructure investment, and public services are profound.

02

Migration is reshaping South Carolina's demographic core

This internal migration pattern challenges the conventional narrative that the Upstate is a passive beneficiary of out-of-state relocation. Instead, it is actively reconfiguring the state's population geography. As more South Carolinians move to the Upstate, the region is becoming the new economic and social center of gravity within the state. This trend may accelerate policy focus on regional equity, public transit, and housing supply—especially as the Upstate's growth may come at the expense of less competitive areas in the Lowcountry and Pee Dee.

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