

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

North Carolina leads in Wilmington migration

63.5% of incoming households come from within the state

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THE DATA

63.5%

Share of Arriving Households From One State (2023)

North Carolina supplies more of the Wilmington market's inbound migration than any other state.

This dominance reflects deep-rooted regional mobility patterns, with North Carolinians choosing to relocate to the Cape Fear coast for its quality of life, economic opportunities, and coastal access. The data reveals that local growth is not driven by distant migration but by internal state movement.

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/2026-10-28-wilmington-mig-state-leader>

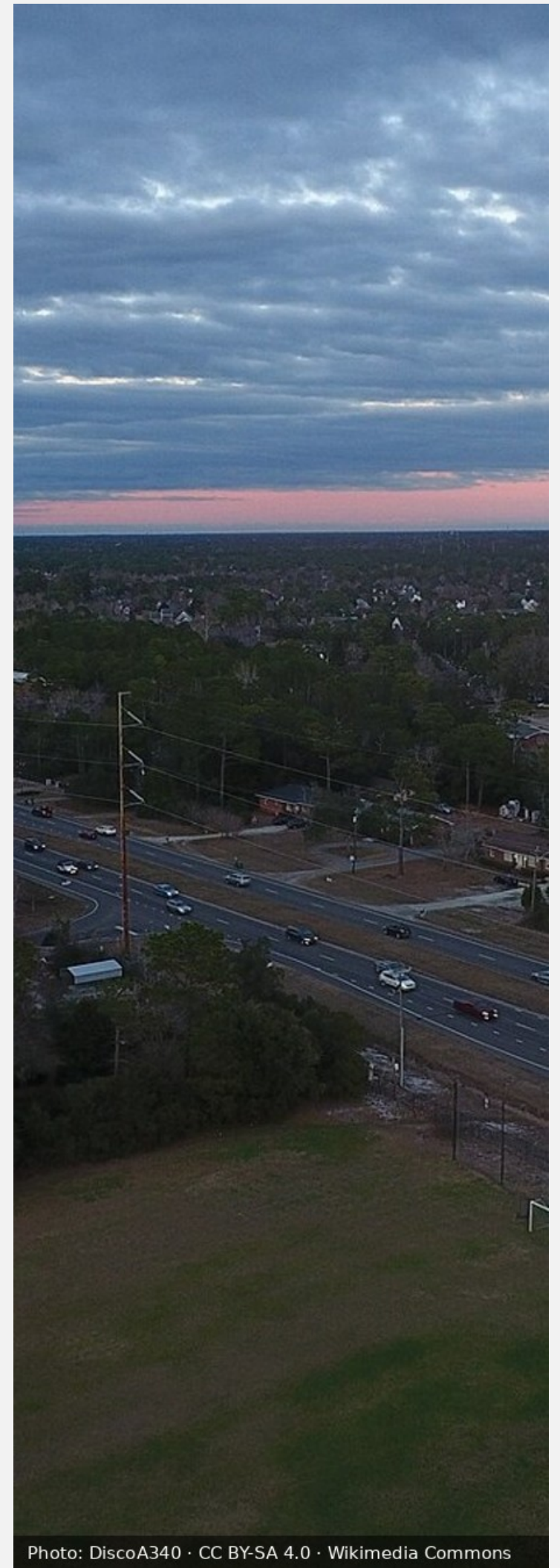


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Internal migration fuels local growth

This internal momentum may be reinforced by state-level investments in infrastructure, workforce development, and education — such as the recent expansions at UNCW and US Conec — that enhance the region’s long-term attractiveness. The result is a virtuous cycle: economic development draws people, and people drive further development.

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Migration dominance signals regional leadership

As more North Carolinians choose to live in the Wilmington metro, the region gains a deeper pool of skilled workers, stronger consumer demand, and greater political capital. This internal leadership could soon shift the balance of economic influence within the state, with Wilmington serving as a bellwether for future growth patterns across North Carolina's coastal and inland counties.



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