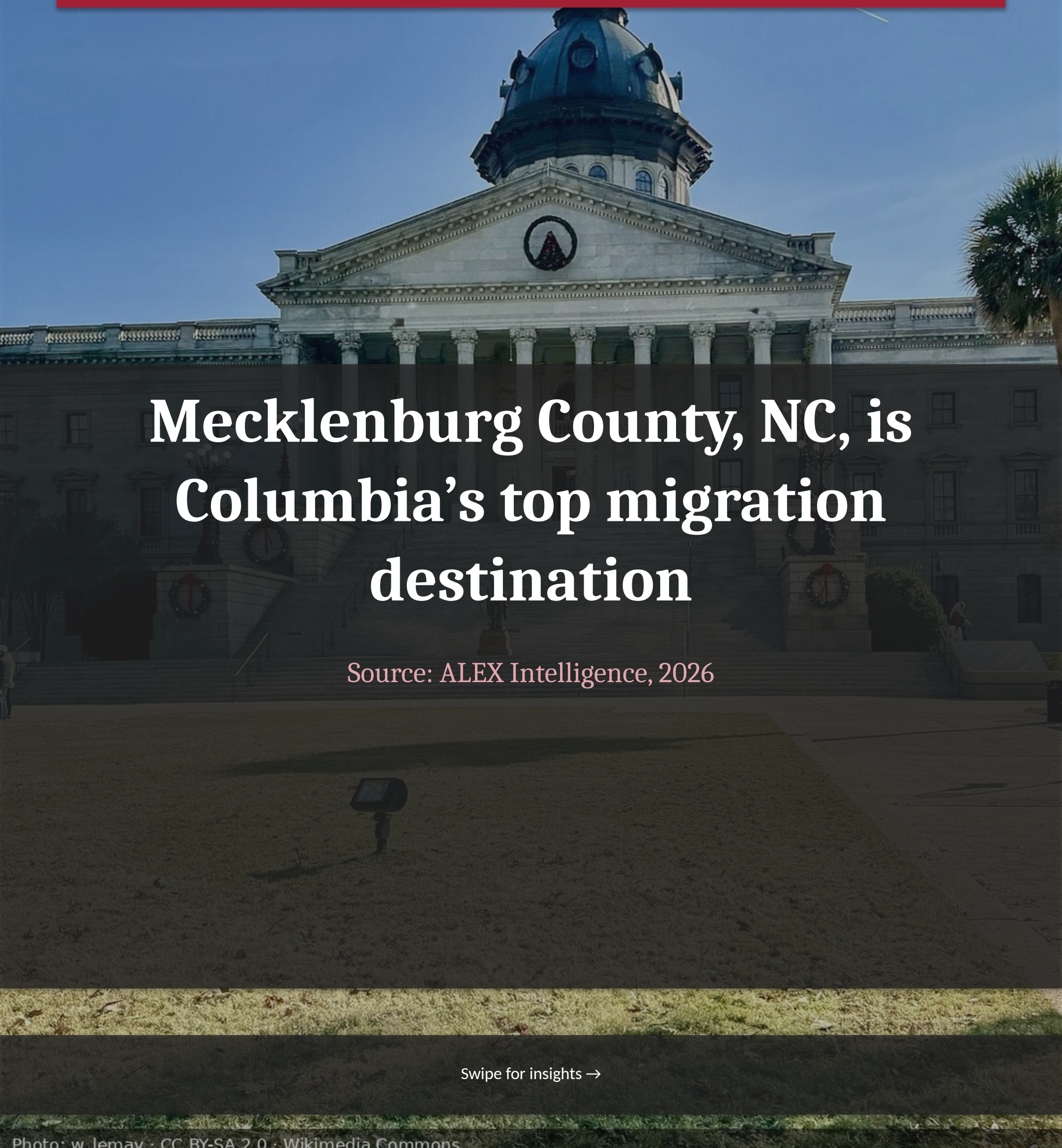
Mecklenburg County, NC — #1 of 10: Households Moving Out to a Single County



Mecklenburg County, NC, is Columbia’s top migration destination

Source: ALEX Intelligence, 2026

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THE DATA

700

Households Moving Out to a Single County (2023)

Mecklenburg County, NC, received 700 households from the Midlands between 2022 and 2023.

This represents the largest single-county flow of households from the Midlands in the U.S. Internal Revenue Service's migration data. The figure reflects a significant cross-state shift, with Mecklenburg County absorbing more Midlands-originating households than any other county in South Carolina or neighboring states.

Photo: w_lemay · CC BY-SA 2.0 · Wikimedia Commons

Source: U.S. Internal Revenue Service, Statistics of Income Migration Data, county-to-county outflows, 2022-23 · ALEX Intelligence computation
https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-10-30-columbia-sc-mig-out-dest

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Columbia’s talent drain is a strategic signal

The outflow is not a sign of decline, but of a maturing labor market where high performers are seeking advanced career opportunities elsewhere.

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Migration patterns reveal hidden market resilience

This dynamic supports the idea that Columbia's real estate is not experiencing a flight-to-safety, but a flight-to-opportunity—meaning that the market's fundamentals remain strong, even as its most mobile residents seek new horizons.

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

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